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WEEKLY PEOPLE

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HAMMER BLOWS

SHATTERING THE FALLACIES OF VULGAR ECONOMICS.

That Learned Decision in Standard Oil Case—A Royal Charitable Marriage—A Howler Hauled Up—Turning Down of Gov. Hughes a Flashlight upon the Morality of "Pillars of Morality."

The French Under Secretary of State Maujan had better take a reef in his tongue. He fulminates against "the rebellion against the public peace" and against "those who were accomplices by provocation." The sandpit strikers of Paris certainly acted hastily. But long before they can be held to account, those should be dealt with who were "the accomplices by provocation." And who are those but the race of Maujans themselves?

The Socialist or militant workingman, who gnashes his teeth at the S. L. P. nomination of Preston for President, and who will not vote for Gillhaus, Preston's proxy on the ticket, proves that his own petty spites are superior to all his Socialist pretensions; his laborism is a lie.

Only two European monarchs speak of their subjects as their "children"—the Czar of Russia and the Sultan of Turkey. When the Czar's troops mowed down the workers on Bloody Sunday, he expressed the hope that his "children" may be pacified. Now the Sultan, after drying the tears of rage that wet his face upon having been forced to grant a constitution to the people, addresses them out of an open window as "my own children." Who is being groomed for the Papa of the American workers?

If Hearst had been courteously furnished with advance proofs of Taft's speech of acceptance, read on July 28, he could not have summarized the same better, on July 27, than when he summarized the Republican party with the neat epigrams of being "the open and avowed handmaiden of the trusts," and a body that "scorns those who would rescue it, repudiates those who would reform it, and glories brazenly in its profitable infamy."

Judge Landis certainly erred. It was obviously an error to fine the Standard Oil for each of a series of offences. If a person commits 1,462 burglaries in one single foray that should count not as 1,462 different offences, each to bear its own punishment, but as just one offence — owing to the continuity thereof, dontcher see?

Does anyone doubt that Col. Edward E. Britton—the president of the Eagle Savings and Loan Company of Brooklyn, and assistant adjutant-general during the administration of Gov. Roosevelt—who has just been arrested on an indictment charging him with larceny of the company funds—does anyone doubt that the worthy Colonel was simply unutterably indignant at "the outrage committed by the Socialist Labor Party" in nominating "the man Preston" for President?

Or does anyone doubt that Frederick H. Schroeder — the Republican district leader of the Sixth Assembly District of Brooklyn—who was jointly indicted and arrested with the precious Colonel for complicity in the alleged looting of the company—does any one doubt that the exquisite Republican district leader joined his Colonel in righteous denunciation of the S. L. P.?

If any doubter there be, let him speak up.

Better and better! First, Roosevelt's darling daughter cheers Tammany, and the Tammany delegates to the Denver Democratic convention return the compliment by cheering the Republican daughter of the Republican President, and wife of the Republican Congressman Longworth. Now comes Frank H. Hitchcock, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, and goes Roosevelt's daughter one better by calling in person upon Bryan, the Democratic candidate for President, and the two worthies "spend some time in conversation, which is apparently enjoyed by them both." Of course they "enjoyed" the chat. What fun it must be to these plunderers of the Working Class to seem foes, and thereby keep the workers split up into warring political parties, as they are kept by the Civic Federation split up into warring craft Unions!

British papers affect horror at American conditions, seeing "how futile all efforts are to purge American politics of commercial control." One should think that the British press would be more cautious than to hold such language. Such language is apt to recall the fact that in Great Britain job lots of "My Lords" are regularly bought to grace more or less fishy prospectuses intended to catch investors. Commercial control of politics is a leprosy found to-day even in the economically backward Czar's household. It is one of the thorns that accompany the "rose" of capitalism.

Gov. Hughes — turned down by the Republicans and refused a renomination on the ground that his "morality campaign" against the race track gamblers, made him enemies enough to endanger the Republican national ticket—is a priceless flashlight upon the Repo-Demo "pillars of morality."

The New York "Sun" of "All hail, Sheriff of Lucerne!" fame is enthusiastic over those "conservative workingmen" who have "an inherent consciousness that labor ought to keep out of politics." Who would not be enthusiastic in favor of the fools he plucks and who like to be plucked?

Well, after all we are not as badly off here as the workers in China. James Hazen Hyde, of malodorous financial reputation in America, never would have dared here what he dared in Pekin—shoot for sport at some coolies who were at work in his hotel. We are not as badly off here—no; at least not yet.

A divine who sports the three-barreled name of Percy Stickney Grant entertained on Sunday, July 26, his Fifth Ave. congregation of stockholders upon the beauty of brain power. "Not muscle," he said, "rules the world of industry but brains." Whereupon the Fifth Avenue congregation went home happy at the discovery that their anatomy contained a thing they never dreamed of having. Latest advices are to the effect that the said Fifth Avenue congregation have been hunting for their brains, and that the Rev. Percy Stickney Grant has demanded a raise in wages to help the congregation find their brain.

"30,000 men needed to harvest the wheat crop of Western Canada!" Does that mean affluence to 30,000 men? It should, but does not. It means that a stupendous amount of wealth may be pocketed by a few dog-in-the-manger capitalists, provided they can get the necessary number of destitute men to do the harvesting for a pittance while they harvest, and then be cast off to starve. No wonder the announcement is accompanied by a statement that the Manitoban Government contemplates releasing men from jail.

A Mr. Joaquim Croyern proposes in the "Evening Post" a detailed plan to combat the spread of Socialism. The first thing to be done is to raise a $10,000,000 fund. With this fund, on a basis of 4½ per cent. income, $450,000, a building is to be got, a library equipped and the establishment launched with a $20,000 a year director. Seeing Mr. Croyern goes into such minute details, down to $18,000 a year for "postage, printing, supplies, telephone, etc.," it is rather disappointing to see him omit the name of his candidate for director and expectant chief beneficiary — Joaquim Croyern.

A cruelly insulting man to the good Prof. Mallock and others is Mr. Joaquim Croyern. He finds that "no systematic work, under qualified scientific authority, is being done to combat" the Socialist movement. Mallock was here only yesterday "combating"; and there is Columbia University with its President and distinguished professorial candle-bearers; and there is Mr. Easely of the Civic Federation—all wearing themselves out to a bone combating. And yet Joaquim is not satisfied, and says they are as nothing.

Four gentlemen—Frederick E. Bliss, James L. White, Charles Marthison and Henry C. Cole — all four "men prominent in business and social circles" in Washington find themselves involved in a social scandal in which "tar and feathers" and the wife of one of the quartet figure conspicuously—all in approved "sanctity of the family" and pillar of "law and order" style.

THE S. L. P. BALLOT AND SLOGAN

Elsewhere in this issue the report is published of the Wednesday, July 29, regular session of the Sub-Committee of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Labor Party. One of the acts of the Sub-Committee was the adoption of the following resolution:

"Whereas, Comrade M. R. Preston, the nominee of the S. L. P. convention for President, feels through delicacy prevented from personally appearing upon the ballot, due to the distressful condition in which an outrageous exhibition of class despotism keeps him plunged; and

"Whereas, The convention empowered the N. E. C. to fill any vacancy that may occur on the Presidential ticket; and

"Whereas, The N. E. C. has empowered its Sub-Committee to act on this, as on all other matters of an emergency nature; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the Sub-Committee of the N. E. C. of the S. L. P. do, and does hereby nominate and appoint Comrade August Gillhaus, of Section New York and now on a tour of propaganda in the West, to act as the proxy for Comrade M. R. Preston on this year's Presidential ticket of the S. L. P."

While it would have been desirable that Preston figured directly at the head of the S. L. P. Presidential ticket, courtesy to the comrade in distress in no way affects the S. L. P. campaign. The convention struck the keynote of the campaign by the nomination of Preston; the convention placed thereby the Party on record on the important matter of the proper attitude of a bona fide political party of Socialism towards the economic organization of Labor. With Preston—the comrade and picketman in prison for having defended his life against a murderous assault — the issue and the candidate stood designated. The S. L. P. convention harkened to the imperative command of Working Class interests;—and unflinchingly the Party adheres to the stand taken by its convention.

By appointing Gillhaus Preston's proxy the campaign launched by the S. L. P. convention continues emphatically unaffected.

The ticket virtually remains unchanged—Preston and Munro—only Gillhaus is Preston's proxy.

The slogan, of which Preston is to-day the incarnation—"NO PICKETING, NO UNION; NO UNION, NO SOCIALIST REPUBLIC!" — remains the slogan to which the Party summons the proletariat of the land, together with all other intelligent citizens, to cast their manhood ballots next election day.

There is a name wanting in the reports given by the Republican papers who quote Mr. Henry White, alias H. Korkowinsky, as a labor man who enthusiastically applauds Taft for his "judicious and just treatment of the rights of labor and capital." The missing name is that of another "labor man"—the ex-dynamiter and convict Heinrich Weissmann. Weissmann and White used to "hunt in couples." They were the joint guests of Roosevelt at a lunch when he was nominated for Governor. The ex-convict dynamiter has since become a lawyer, dropped his place in the Bakers' Union, and successfully fought in Court the bakers bosses' case to declare unconstitutional the 10-hour law. By all means, let's hear what Heinrich has to say, now that Henry, the other Roosevelt pet and dumped Secretary of the Garment Workers, has been heard from.

The campaign is exhibiting one of the many ways in which craft Unionism disrupts Labor and dislocates its striking arm. Not a day passes without the papers teem with reports of craft Unionists, some violently opposing Gompers's "sell out," others as enthusiastically upholding the same. Whether in the shop (the economic) or at the hustings (the political) or on the field of battle, Labor, disrupted by craft Unionism, ever punches its own face or gores its own side.

There is nothing occult in the admiration that the "Washington Herald" bestows upon Deal Jackson, whom it terms "one wise Negro." "Deal," the Bourbon paper announces, "does not concern himself at all with politics." Whereupon one can hear distinctly the sigh that goes up from the "Washington Herald's" buzzum as it winds up its article with: "It is a pity there are not more colored men like Deal Jackson."—Pity indeed, for the white labor fleecers whom the Negro voters are crowding badly.

The Decennial Edition of the American Digest, being a digest of the legal decisions rendered between 1897 and 1906, glories in what it calls the remarkable fact that during that decade the Courts rendered nearly half as many decisions as had been rendered in the preceding 238 years. Nothing remarkable in that. What is really remarkable is that, with much less than one half the work of former years, the Judges now receive a many times larger salary, while the workers who do many times more work and produce many times more wealth, reap a many times smaller share.

WAR ON AMERICAN SHOES.

German Shoemakers Form Union to Keep Out Foreign Product.

Berlin, August 2.—The Free Union of German Shoemakers, in congress assembled at Leipsic, has just issued a fresh declaration of war against American footwear. The union has decided that its existing organization is not sufficiently powerful to fight the growing invasion of shapely boots and shoes stamped and made in the United States, so it has been determined to form a new league, whose sole object shall be to wage a campaign against the hand wares of American shoemakers.

The union is following out the tactics practiced a few weeks ago by the German Shoe Manufacturers' Association, which declined to allow American boots and shoes to be exhibited even at the annual exposition in Berlin.

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LONDON LETTER

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO LABOR FROM THE BRITISH CAPITAL.

Hungry Paraders Abused by Police Make Threats That They Cannot Make Good—British Press Free to Libel Workingmen, Declares Jury—Workingmen Seeking to Enlist in the Army Reveal Shocking Physical Degeneracy That Capitalism Imposes on Working Class—The Weaving of Irish Kilts Becomes a Matter of State—Naval Appropriations Double the Amount for Old Age Pensions—The Worthlessness of the Boasted British Factory Acts.

London, July 19.—While Parliament is considering all sorts of measures for the benefit of the working class, the condition of these is continually growing worse. It was only the other day, after the House of Commons had passed the Old Age Pension Bill, that an ungrateful body of unemployed East Enders marched to Hyde Park and, as the Central News puts it, used "extraordinary language." During the progress of the meeting the poor devils passed around a collection box, the police ordered it stopped, and when the men persisted the box, with some $25 which it contained, was confiscated. The unclass-conscious victims of capitalism then vented their rage by calling the police "filthy scoundrels," and one speaker, it is declared, made the vain boast that before long the East End unemployed would march "two against every one of the police, and with revolvers against their bludgeons." Several arrests were made and the meeting was broken up by the police.

"Jack" Williams, leader of an unemployed demonstration last November, lost in his action for libel against the "Daily Express." On November 14, 1907, that paper had an article, which dealt with a demonstration on Tower-hill, headed "Obscene Socialist Speakers. Disgraceful Scenes at Tower-hill. Will the city authorities do their duty?" The article charged that Williams made an indecent speech, and referred to him as "the notorious Jack Williams and other so-called unemployed who would not work if they could."

The article stated: "The speaker shocked even some of his customary audience of loafers by applying an epithet of the worst possible nature to the German emperor." Williams on the stand testified that he had protested against a "grand feed" being given on behalf of the German emperor when so many people were starving in London. The defendant's answer was to blacken the character of the plaintiff by showing that he had once been arrested for being "drunk and disorderly." Williams claimed that his arrest was a put-up job by the police. The jury, without leaving the box, returned a verdict for the paper.

Parliament has been considering some figures placed before it by Mr. Haldane, showing rejections for physical reasons of Army recruits. Of 956 men who offered themselves as recruits in Dundee 680 were rejected as physically unfit; of 1,493 in Newcastle 1,046 were refused, and of 2,523 in Manchester 1,821 were rejected. These figures are eloquent of the physical degeneracy of the workers that is going on under capitalism, although the capitalist press assures the nation that the figures are not so alarming after all, as it is only the "shiftless and useless members" of the community that seek to enlist, and that it is not to these that any country looks for good specimens of bodily development. To-morrow that same viper press will be singing the praises of the boys in uniform.

"Men are but children of a larger growth": at least it takes no more to disconcert them, or set them by the ears. The latest Irish Question flung into Parliament has to do with Irish Kilts, which some delving Celtic Revivalist has dug up from some remote antiquity and is parading as the true "national costume."

M. R. Hazleton, the Nationalist member for Galway, was showing a young friend, who was attired in Celtic dress, over both Houses, and they afterward took a seat in the gallery of the House of Lords to listen to a debate. Mr. Hazleton was approached by a messenger from Black Rod to the effect that he did not think it was proper to introduce a stranger so attired to that House. The kilt in question is described as: saffron-colored, plain down the front, with a saffron shawl over the shoulder, a silver-gilt waist belt, and silver buttons inscribed with Irish mottoes. The Celtic Revivalists say that this dress was suppressed by law in Ireland in the sixteenth century. There is an unwritten law that only "Highland gentlemen" shall appear in kilts in the presence of the Sovereign, and the King himself sports them when in the Highlands. It might be allowed to pass should the Nationalists attire themselves in the earlier and scantier costume of skins, but to array themselves as the King is wont to do cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged. Both the Celtic Revivalists and Black Rod are taking the matter very seriously, and with such childish things do government officials and the press concern themselves.

The Old Age Pension Bill passed through all its stages in the House of Commons and goes to the Lords, where it is likely to receive a safe conduct. The expenditure is to be within the limit of £7,000,000 a year, less than the cost of four battleships, for which there is now a cry for four or five new ones. The Commons have just voted £15,000,000 for Navy affairs. All unwittingly, perhaps, a medicine concern, in exploiting the Old Age Pensions in an advertisement, shows the hollowness of the scheme by observing: "Pensions beginning at seventy will not benefit people who die young or at middle age; and that, we all know, is the fate of most of us," therefore if you would live to get a pension take So-and-so's panacea! Government cure-alls and patent medicine cure-alls and very much akin.

Despite our boasted Factory Acts, and the power of our pure and simple unions, a knowledge of the true condition of affairs in mill and mine filters through once in a while and arrests public attention for a moment. Mr. W. Mullin, in his Quarterly Report of the Cardroom Workers' Association, calls attention to the unhealthy state of cardrooms in the cotton mills of Lancashire. "The cardrooms to-day," he says, "are much more lofty than those erected sixty years ago. Yet to-day men empolyed on revolving flat cards are unable to continue the work of a grinder at from forty to forty-five years of age." He intimates that there are now on the market many good and reliable apparatus for removing the dust created in stripping and grinding, and, he might have added, despite Old Age Pensions the lives of workers are cheaper than apparatus.

Mr. Keir Hardie has not received much satisfaction from the Lord Chamberlain anent the Windsor garden party incident. At a meeting in his constituency a resolution of confidence in Hardie was passed ,and it looks as though he will have to be satisfied with that.

In the July report of the Boilermakers' Society there is a heading: "Shall there be greater Unity?" in which it is hinted that until there is collective action in the shipbuilding industry the crafts are bound to lose.

FRAUD IN CLEVELAND TRACTION.

Company Controlled by Mayor Johnson May Be Asked to Show What Authority Is Has to Manipulate Private Stock Exchange.

Cleveland, Ohio, August 2.—Charging that the Municipal Traction Company, whose affairs are controlled by Mayor Tom L. Johnson, is perpetrating a fraud through the operation of a private stock exchange for the sale of stock in the Cleveland Railways Company, operated by the Municipal Company, Attorney John A. Cline yesterday demanded that State Attorney General Ellis begin quo warranto proceedings against the company.

The announcement that this action had been taken was followed by the statement that fearing a revolt in the City Council, a change would be made in the operation of street cars to suit the people who had objected to the cars stopping at every other street intersection.

Among Democratic politicians it was also rumored yesterday that A. B. Dupont, president of the traction company, would be asked to resign, and that some one else would be named in his place. Neither Johnson nor Mr. Dupont would make any statement concerning the rumor.

SEES SOCIALISM AHEAD.

Banker Admits Old Age Pensions Are in the Nature of Buffers.

Upon his return from Europe Frederick J. Lisman, banker and member of the New York Stock Exchange house of F. J. Lisman & Co., of No. 30 Broad street, commented upon what he called the fact that political drift in Europe is toward Socialism and radical legislation and that a Socialist tendency is by no means peculiar to the United States.

"I studied especially, while in England, the various trade regulations and old age pensions," said Lisman, "and I found that the advisability of establishing old age pensions for virtually everyone formed the principal topic of discussion in England where a radical ministry has introduced a measure into parliament to grant such pensions without providing the necessary means for meeting the consequent expenditures. There is considerable fear that this movement will result in a tax upon capital which may drive the supremacy of trade and finance from London.

"In Germany, I noted that there was always the spectre of war. Every banker in that country when he becomes confidential, refers to it. They all distrust the kaiser, and want to know why Germany is building a big navy if it is not intended to be used against England. At the same time the banking influence, as here, is not sufficiently strong to mold sentiment toward conservatism."

According to Lisman, Europeans are **anxious to learn** how quickly business **will improve** here, but lack confidence to **purchase** American securities.

HELP WANTED.

During July and August subscriptions are generally slower than at other times. To a paper like the Weekly People, getting along as we do with a minimum of funds at the best of times, this period is especially trying. It could be much improved if all our friends would but lend a hand. We don't call upon you to make any sacrifice other than, say, the donation of one hour's time to the Weekly People. In that one hour you can surely get one subscription for us. You certainly have someone in mind as a prospective subscriber and we hope you will try and land him. Don't leave it all to us. We need help—your help, so push the propaganda and do it now.

WEEKLY PEOPLE.

THE MEXICAN CASE

ARE THE UNITED STATES HELPING DIAZ?

Obstruction Tactics of U. S. District Attorney in Accepting Bail for Imprisoned Men — Revolutionists Ask to Be Left to Settle with Mexican President and Want American Troops Kept Away.

Los Angeles, July 19.—To the petition to reduce the bail of the Mexicans imprisoned here the Supreme Court has answered: "We will not reduce the amount of bail." Following this a man interested in the defence of the Mexicans visited the United States Attorney's office to inquire regarding bond for the men. Oscar Lawler, U. S. Attorney informed him that the power to accept or refuse bond was vested in him, Oscar Lawler; that he would accept a bona fide property bond in this U. S. Court district. A bond was secured and presented; but the bailees were informed that the attorneys for the defence had not, since the Supreme Court's decision, presented themselves before the court here to ask the restraining order removed. The attorneys for the defence presented themselves before the court last week, and were informed that their bond must be sent to Washington for approval.

Meanwhile the men are kept incommunicado. No books, letters, or anything of interest is allowed them. On last Monday Mrs. Rivera, wife of one of the prisoners went to the jail with clean clothing for her husband. She was refused admittance; this being the third time. This was too much for her gentle nature to bear. Half-fainting, and clinging to the hands of her little boy and her girl, she turned into the street and sat down with her children in a door-way, where she broke out into tears. But she rose from that door-way a stronger and determined woman. She would defeat that incommunicado order. Not being able to speak English herself, she went to a friend's house and secured the services of a young Mexican who speaks both English and Spanish. With him she went to the office of the U. S. Attorney, Oscar Lawler; and asked to see him. She was told that "Mr. Lawler did not have time to talk to her."

Next morning she returned with her interpreter who said: "We will wait until Mr. Lawler can see us." Lawler decided to see them at once. Mrs. Rivera demanded her right to visit her husband, and wanted to know why that right had been refused. Lawler, of course, did not want to appear as being "unjust" in the prosecution of her husband, but President Diaz had requested that the men be kept incommunicado, as they had fomented a revolution in Mexico. Mrs. Rivera insisted on her right to visit her husband and won. But the U. S. Court bailiff goes along to listen to what the man and his wife and children converse about for fear of their mentioning "Revolution."

The capitalist press terms the uprising only "bandit raids." President Diaz, however, says "Revolution." And President Diaz is right: he sees the handwriting on the wall. He has already begun making preparations for his flight.

All news of the uprising in Mexico, is forbidden publication. Only those who report "bandit raids" are allowed to publish any report. But bandits don't usually attack and capture towns and hold them these days. Bandits do not go marching in thousands. Quite otherwise. And President Diaz knows his only salvation lies in the great assistance American soldiery can be, if allowed to cross the border into Mexico. The Mexican President wants this assistance not to help suppress bandits, but to shoot down men and women who have taken up arms against a one man government and have resolved to die fighting to rid themselves of the yoke.

"Will the American working class say anything if troops should be called for in Mexico?" This seems to be the question of much moment, and one which is agitating the class that rules.

That the struggle in Mexico will be short and decisive, reports prove. The revolutionists are much stronger than

(Continued on Page 6.)

THE UPLIFTING OF THE WORKING PROLETARIAT

The word "proletariat" conveyed at one time in the history of capitalist production the idea of extreme degradation. Even to-day there are people who entertain this notion, and among them not a few who claim to be abreast of the times. This, however, arises from a woeful confusion of thought. However numerous the external marks may have been which, at one time, the working proletariat had in common with the slums, even then the two were separated by a deep chasm.

The slums have continued to be essentially the same, in whatever historic epoch and under whatever system they may have made their appearance. The slums of New York, Chicago, San Francisco, or any other large modern centre of population, are hard to distinguish from those of ancient Rome. On the other hand, the modern working proletariat is a peculiar phenomenon, never before noticed in the history of mankind.

Contrasts between the Slums and the Working Proletariat.

Between the slums and the working proletariat of capitalist production there is above all the immense and fundamental difference that the former always were and still continue to be parasites, whereas the latter is one of the principal roots of modern society—a root that develops, not only into leading importance, but into the **only** one from which society draws its strength and support. The working proletariat is a propertiless, but not an almstaking, element. So far from its being supported by society, it supports society with its labor. True enough, during the early days of the capitalist system, the working proletariat looked upon itself as a pauper class, and upon the capitalist who exploited it as a benefactor, as the provider of work, and, consequently, as the bread-giver. Of course, this patriarchal relation is highly pleasing to the capitalists; they still demand from their workingmen for the wages paid to them, not only the labor contracted for, but also humility and gratitude.

But the capitalist system can nowhere proceed very far without the patriarchal conditions that exist at its inception going wholly by the board. However enslaved and ignorant the workingmen may at any time be, they realize, sooner or later, that they are bread-givers of the capitalists, and not vice versa. While they remain poor, or even become poorer, the capitalist becomes ever richer. And when they demand more bread from the capitalist, from this would-be patriarch, he gives them a stone.

The working proletarians differ from the slums and from the servant and menial classes in that they do not live upon the exploitation carried on by the exploiters; and they differ from the workers under former systems of production in that they do not live and labor together with their exploiters, and that all the personal bonds and relations that existed between these have wholly disappeared between the modern employer and employe. They live in miserable tenements or rickety frame houses that are a libel upon the word "home," while they rear palaces for the exploiter; they famish while they spread for him a luxurious feast; they go unclad, while they prepare for him costly raiment; they toil and moil till they drop with exhaustion to furnish him and his the means whereby to kill time.

Why the Working Class Hates and Despises the Rich.

The contrast between these two elements is a very different one from that between the rich and the poor man of pre-capitalist days; and very different also between the capitalist and the small man" of to-day. The latter envies the rich man, whom he looks up to with admiration, who is the example he would imitate, the ideal he holds up to himself; he wishes to be in that capitalist's place, and become an exploiter like him; he never for a moment thinks of abolishing the system of exploitation. The working proletariat, on the contrary, does not envy the modern rich man; it does not wish itself in his place; **it hates and despises** him; it hates him as the exploiter; it despises him as a drone. At first the working proletarian hates only those capitalists with whom he is brought into direct contact, but soon he realizes the fact that all of them stand in the same posture toward him, and his hatred, which originally was personal, develops into a conscious hostility towards the whole capitalist class.

Class Hatred Not the Result of Socialist Propaganda.

This hostility towards exploitation itself is one of the first distinguishing marks of the working proletariat. This class hatred is by no means a result of Socialist propaganda; it was noticeable long before the influence of Socialism began to make itself felt among the working classes. Among the workers under former social systems, such a well developed class hatred as exists to-day was impossible; the intimate personal relations that existed between them and their "masters" excluded all thought of such class antipathies; hostilities might and did often break out between the master and his underlings personally, but these could never be carried beyond a certain point without forthwith stopping production itself; and, as a result, whatever lengths they went to, reconciliation always followed. Under the capitalist system, however, the workers may entertain the most bitter enmity against their employers without production being thereby interfered with, and even without the employer being at all aware of it.

Capitalist Class Unconsciously Trains the Working Class in the Methods Required for the Overthrow of Capitalism.

The conditions themselves under which labor is performed in the capitalist system point out to the proletariat the necessity of firmly holding together, of moving in a body, and or subordinating the individual to the whole. While, in the classic days of handicraft, each individual produced a whole article himself, capitalist industry is based upon co-operative labor. Here the individual worker can do nothing without his fellow-worker. If they start to work united and planfully, the capacity of each is doubled and trebled. Thus their labor itself brings home to them the power of union, and develops among them the sense of voluntary and gladsome discipline—both of which are the conditions precedent for Socialist production, and are likewise the conditions precedent for the successful struggle of the proletariat against the system of exploitation that prevails under capitalist production. And thus it happens that capitalism itself trains the proletarians in the methods requisite for its own overthrow, and educates them in the system of labor that will be required of them in Socialist society.

More powerfully, perhaps, than co-operation in labor does the equality in the present conditions of work tend to awaken among the proletarians the sense of solidarity among themselves. In a modern well-developed mill there is as good as no distinction of rank, no hierarchy, among the workers. The higher posts are, as a rule, inaccessible to the proletarians; at all events, they are so few that they do not affect the masses. Slight is the number of those who can be corrupted by these favorite posts. For the large majority the conditions of labor are identical; to the individual all possibility is shut off of lifting himself up alone; he can better his condition only if the condition of all his fellow-toilers is bettered. The capitalist realizes this fact and its effects upon his men, and in not a few cases he tries to counteract both by the introduction of artificial distinctions in his mills, to the end of throwing the apple of discord among the workers; but such is the leveling influence and power of modern large production that all such schemes are unable to undermine permanently the sense of solidarity which it evokes in the ranks of the working proletariat. The longer the capitalist system of production lasts, all the more powerfully does the solidarity of the proletariat manifest itself; all the stronger does it cast roots, all the more prominently does it stand out as one of the distinguished characteristics of the working proletariat.

Contrasts in the Solidarity of the Workers under Feudalism and under Capitalism.

Already in the days of the journeymen mechanics the beginnings may be found of international organizations. The exploited classes of those days showed they were able to rise above national barriers; but there was one barrier above which they could not lift themselves—that of their own trade. The hatmaker, for instance, of one country felt one with those of others, but the shoemakers, tailors, and other workers of his own country remained strangers to him. At that time the various trades were separated by sharp lines; the applicant for admission to any of them was held to a long apprenticeship before he became a journeyman, and he remained loyal to his trade for life. The power and prosperity of his trade were his own; although, in a certain sense, the journeyman's interests were opposed to those of his guild master, yet were they opposed to those of both master and journeyman of all other trades. The spectacle was frequent during the most flourishing period of the guilds that the journeymen of the various trades were involved in fierce strifes with one another.

The capitalist system of production, on the contrary, throws the various trades together and mixes them inextricably. In a capitalist establishment, people of different trades are seen generally working together, and jointly operating towards a commond end. Furtherfore, the capitalist system has the tendency to wipe out the very idea of a trade in production: the machine shortens the time of apprenticeship, that formerly extended over years, down to weeks and days; it makes it possible for the several workmen to pass from one occupation to another without great difficulty, and it often even compels them to the change by frequently rendering them superfluous in their former lines, throwing them out of work, and compelling them to look for another job. The freedom in the choice of a pursuit which the philistines fear to lose in Socialist society, is a thing that has lost all meaning to the working class under the present system.

Under Capitalism All Sections of the Working Class Are Welded Together.

Under such circumstances, it has become an easy matter for the workingman to lift himself above the barriers before which the journeyman of old halted. The sense of solidarity among the modern working proetariat is, accordingly, not only international, it now extends over the whole working class.

Already in the Middle Ages there was a variety of forms of wage labor; neither are the conflicts between wage workers and their exploiters something new; but it was not until the rule of the capitalist system came into force that the spectacle was presented of the rise of an embattled class of wage-workers, conscious of the oneness of their interests, and ever more ready to subordinate to the interests of their class, as a whole, not only their personal, but also their local and, in so far as these still continue to exist, their separate trade interests. It is only in our own century that the struggles of the wage workers, the working proletariat, against exploitation assume the character of a class struggle. It is only by virtue thereof that these struggles are enabled to aim at a higher goal than that of simply removing this or that objectionable feature of the existing system, and that the Labor Movement has become a revolutionary movement.

Under these conditions, the horizon of the working class broadens steadily. This holds good with regard to the working proletariat employed in large production; but the same as the industrial form of capital becomes more and more the standard for all capital, and even for all economic undertakins within the reach of capitalist nations, so likewise do the thoughts and sentiments of that portion of the proletariat that is engaged in large production strike the keynote for the thoughts and seniments of the whole wage-working class. The consciousness of the unity of the interests of all takes possession of one set of workers after another, just as fast as the all-pervading influence of large production forces itself into the various classes of industries.

Thus there rises out of the despised, maltreated, degraded proletariat a historic power before which the powers that be have begun to tremble. Thus a new class is in the process of formation that brings with it a new code of morals and new philosophy; a class that grows daily in numbers, in compactness, in consciousness of its mission, in intelligence, and into an economic necessity.—"The Working Class," by Kautsky.

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THE MATERIALISM OF THE REFORMATION

When Europe emerged from the Middle Ages, the rising middle class of the towns constituted its revolutionary element. It had conquered a recognized position within medieval feudal organizations, but this position had become too narrow for its expansive power. The development of the middle class, the bourgeoisie, became incompatible with the maintenance of the feudal system; the feudal system, therefore, had to fall.

But the great international center of feudalism was the Roman Catholic Church. It united the whole of feudalized Western Europe, in spite of all internal wars, into one grand political system, opposed as much to the schismatic Greeks as to the Mohammedan countries. It surrounded feudal institutions with the halo of divine consecration. It had organized its own hierarchy on the feudal model, and, lastly, it was itself by far the most powerful feudal lord, holding, as it did, fully one-third of the soil of the Catholic world. Before profane feudalism could be successfully attacked in each country and in detail, this, its sacred central organization, had to be destroyed.

Moreover, parallel with the rise of the middle class went on the great revival of science; astronomy, mechanics, physics, anatomy, physiology, were again cultivated. And the bourgeoisie for the development of its industrial production, required a science which ascertained the physical properties of natural objects and the modes of action of the forces of Nature. Now, up to then science had but been the humble handmaid of the Church, had not been allowed to overstep the limits set by faith, and for that reason had been no science at all. Science rebelled against the Church; the bourgeoisie could not do without science, and, therefore, had to join in the rebellion.

The rising middle class was bound to come into collision with the established religion because every struggle against feudalism, at that time, had to take on a religious disguise, had to be directed against the Church in the first instance. But if the universities and the traders of the cities started the cry, it was sure to find, and did find, a strong echo in the masses of the country people, the peasants, who everywhere had to struggle for their existence with their feudal lords, spiritual and temporal.

The long fight of the bourgeoisie against feudalism culminated in three great, decisive battles.

The first was what is called the Protestant Reformation in Germany. The war-cry raised against the Church by Luther was responded to by two insurrections of a political nature; first, that of the lower nobility under Franz von Sickingen, 1523; then the great Peasants' War, 1525. Both were defeated, chiefly in consequence of the indecision of the parties most interested, the burghers of the towns—an indecision into the causes of which we cannot here enter. From that moment the struggle degenerated into a fight between the local princes and the central power, and ended by blotting out Germany for two hundred years from the politically active nations of Europe. The Lutheran reformation produced a new creed indeed, a religion adapted to absolute monarchy. No sooner were the peasants of Northeast Germany converted to Lutheranism than they were from freemen reduced into serfs.

But where Luther failed, Calvin won the day. Calvin's creed was one fit for the boldest of the bourgeoisie at his time. His predestination doctrine was the religious expression of the fact that in the commercial world of competition success or failure does not depend upon a man's activity or cleverness, but upon circumstances uncontrollable by him. It is not of him that willeth, or of him that runneth, but of the mercy of unknown superior economic powers; and this was especially true at a period of economic revolution, when all old commercial routes and centers were replaced by new ones, when India and America were opened to the world, and when even the most sacred economic articles of faith—the value of gold and silver—began to totter and to break down. Calvin's church institution was thoroughly democratic and republican; and where the kingdom of God was republicanized, could the kingdoms of this world remain subjected to monarchs, bishops, and lords? While German Lutheranism became a willing tool in the hands of princes, Calvinism founded a republic in Holand, and active republican parties in England, and, above all, Scotland.

In Calvinism, the second great bourgeois upheaval found its doctrine ready cut and dried. This upheaval took place in England. The middle class of the towns brought it on, and the yeomanry of the country districts fought it out. Curiously enough, in all the three great bourgeois risings, the peasantry furnishes the army that has to do the fighting; and the peasantry is just the class that, the victory once gained, is most surely ruined by the economic consequences of that victory.

Upon the excess of revolutionary activity there necessarily followed the inevitable reaction which in its turn went beyond the point where it might have maintained itself. After a series of oscillations, the new center of gravity was at last attained and became a new starting-point.

This new starting-point was a compromise between the rising middle class and the ex-feudal landowners. The latter, though called, as now, the aristocracy, had been long since on the way which led them to become what Louis Philippe in France became at a much later period, "the first bourgeois of the kingdom." Fortunately for England, the old feudal barons had killed one another during the Wars of the Roses. Their successors, though mostly scions of the old families, had been so much out of the direct line of descent that they constituted quite a new body, with habits and tendencies far more bourgeois than feudal. They fully understood the value of money, and at once began to increase their rents by turning hundreds of small farmers out and replacing them by sheep. Henry VIII., while squandering the Church lands, created fresh bourgeois landlords by wholesale; the innumerable confiscations of estates, regranted to absolute or relative upstarts, and continued during the whole of the seventeenth century, had the same result. Consequently, ever since Henry VII., the English "aristocracy," far from counteracting the development of industrial production, had, on the contrary, sought to indirectly profit thereby and there had always been a section of the great landowners willing, from economical or political reasons, to co-operate with the leading men of the financial and industrial bourgeoisie. The compromise of 1689 was, therefore, easily accomplished. The political spoils of "pelf and place" were left to the great landowning families, provided the economic interests of the financial, manufacturing and commercial middle class were at that time powerful enough to determine the general policy of the nation. There might be squabbles about matters of detail, but, on the whole, the aristocratic oligarchy knew too well that its own economic prosperity was irretrievably bound up with that of the industrial and commercial middle class. —Historical Materialsm, by Frederick Engels.

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PLATFORM

Adopted at the Eleventh National Convention of the Socialist Labor Party, July 1904.

The Socialist Labor Party of America, in convention assembled, reasserts the inalienable right of man to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We hold that the purpose of government is to secure to every citizen the enjoyment of this right; but taught by experience we hold furthermore that such right is illusory to the majority of the people, to wit, the working class, under the present system of economic inequality that is essentially destructive of THEIR life, THEIR liberty and THEIR happiness.

We hold that the true theory of politics is that the machinery of government must be controlled by the whole people; but again taught by experience we hold furthermore that the true theory of economics is that the means of production must likewise be owned, operated and controlled by the people in common. Man cannot exercise his right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness without the ownership of the land on and the tool with which to work. Deprived of these, his life, his liberty and his fate fall into the hands of the class that owns those essentials for work and production.

We hold that the existing contradiction between the theory of democratic government and the fact of a despotic economic system—the private ownership of the natural and social opportunities—divides the people into two classes: the Capitalist Class and the Working Class; throws society into the convulsions of the Class Struggle; and perverts government to the exclusive benefit of the Capitalist Class.

Thus labor is robbed of the wealth which it alone produces, is denied the means of self-employment, and, by compulsory idleness in wage slavery, is even deprived of the necessaries of life.

Against such a system the Socialist Labor Party raises the banner of revolt, and demands the unconditional surrender of the Capitalist Class.

The time is fast coming when in the natural course of social evolution, this system, through the destructive action of its failures and crises, on the one hand, and the constructive tendencies of its trusts and other capitalist combinations, on the other hand, will have worked out its own downfall.

We, therefore, call upon the wage workers of America to organize under the banner of the Socialist Labor Party into a class conscious body, aware of its rights and determined to conquer them.

And we also call upon all other intelligent citizens to place themselves squarely upon the ground of Working Class interests, and join us in this mighty and noble work of human emancipation, so that we may put summary end to the existing barbarous class conflict by placing the land and all the means of production, transportation and distribution into the hands of the people as a collective body, and substituting the Co-operative Commonwealth for the present state of planless production, industrial war and and social disorder—a commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise and full benefit of his faculties, multiplied by all the modern factors of civilization.

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THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT IN AMERICA

BY DANIEL DE LEON.

[The below article was written for and appeared in the January, 1908, Almanac of the "Nepakarat," the Hungarian organ of the Socialist Labor Party.]

History can not be written until there is an ample supply of material therefor. As history is not mere chronology, and is essentially descriptive, the present status of a Movement can not be properly described before there is at hand a sufficiency of consecutive data to enable the historian, with some degree of certainty, to gauge the trend of events. It may seem paradoxical, yet it is true, that real history must be not "retrospective" only, it must be "prospective" also. While the past tells us whence we come, the present, and the future developments which the present point to, are material in understanding the past. Upon these general principles the history of the Socialist Movement in America is hardly yet to be written. The present is still in too chaotic a state to justify accurate conclusions upon the past, much less to justify accurate forecast. Under present circumstances, "Histories of American Socialism" are mere catch-penny undertakings. Sketches is all that to-day the subject allows. Such a sketch—and a very rough one at that—is all I can present to our Hungarian comrades.

There is ever a morbid desire to rise to the very source of a Movement. The endeavor to "trace the Socialist Movement of America to its source" illustrates the morbidness of that failing. It illustrates even more—it illustrates how purely dogmatic these Marxists are who have attempted the job of "tracing to its source," and how skin-deep their Marxism is. Their "tracings" sound like the talk of a geographer would sound who started to "trace the source" of a river in the clouds. No doubt the water that river is made of comes to a large extent from clouds. But the clouds we see may never descend into that particular river; moreover, obscure underground springs may be important feeders to the stream. I shall omit the "source-hunt." I shall limit myself in this sketch to the citing of a series of facts. Let others co-ordinate them and write their history.

From a vast amount of material, Marx generalizes that the bourgeois Republic of the United States, being at the stage of its physical development, was still at the conservative stage. The classes had not yet acquired that consistency which is unacquirable so long as visions exist of material success. That was the material that Socialism had to work upon. As to such material Socialism was premature.

The prematureness of Socialism in America was emphasized by the circumstance that those who, a generation or so ago, introduced the word "Socialism" were not, generally, what the introducers of Socialism had been in Germany—a native intellectual injection ahead of the material conditions that would call for a Movement. They were neither active nor, as a rule, intellectual. They were expatriated Germans whose Socialism consisted mainly in negations, and whose intelligence of the subject was so superficial that it kept them from a correct understanding of the conditions of the country of their adoption. This lack of understanding caused that element to divide into two legitimate opposites. One element threw Socialism wholly overboard. Its slogan was: "Socialism is good enough in Germany, but not in America. Here everyone can grow rich. Look at me. I am only a short time here and already I have got a good business, and have my own house (mortgaged.)" Or: "Socialism is good enough in Germany, but not in America. Don't you see I don't need to serve in the Army here." The other element clung to the word "Socialism" as to a superstition. Its slogan was: "The Americans are too hopelessly stupid and corrupt. They can never understand Socialism"—and with this slogan they consoled themselves for their misfortune in having come to "Malheurica," their favorite pun upon America. This double circumstance threw an extraneous obstacle in the path of Socialism. The use of a name by such elements rendered the thing itself unpleasant.

Simultaneous with these events economic development went on. Its sediment of experience—however crude, however imperfect or visionary—was a series of Utopian outbreaks. The first was the Greenback Movement in the early seventies; the second was the Single Tax Movement; the third was the Nationalist (Bellamy) Movement. It is a notable fact that each of these movements, in succession, began outside of the camp of the Working Class; each was captained and crewed by intellectuals of the middle and upper classes—Peter Cooper, Henry George, Edward Bellamy; each refused to recognize the working class as a separate socio-political entity; each proposed to bring salvation "to the people"; and each went down, leaving the extinguishing candle in the hands of workingmen—the only element that stuck.

Out of these various sediments—aided step by step by economic evolution—rose the first party of Socialism in the land, the Socialist Labor Party, in 1890.

The appearance of the S. L. P. in 1890 was the first substantive manifestation of a Socialist Movement in the United States. The Party started not merely upon abstract principles of Socialism, it started with some very concrete principles of practice. The former need no mention, they are international. The latter were more typical of American conditions. These principles of practice turned upon UNIONISM. This fact must be distinctly kept in mind. It explains all subsequent developments.

The S. L. P. of America started its existence with the question of Unionism as its cornerstone. The Unions in existence were "pure and simple," that is, they held to the principle of brotherhood between Capital and Labor, and "No Politics in the Union." The two principles rendered the Union a corrupt body, managed by the capitalists through their labor lieutenants, the officers of the Unions. The S. L. P. took an emphatic stand, and declared that the Union could not help but be steeped in politics, hence the bona-fide Union was bound to be in Socialist politics. A stand like that, once taken, was bound to develop to its logical conclusions, and at the same time drop whatever errors originally clung to it. The development was rapid. In 1896 the S. L. P. was mainly instrumental in setting up the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance, an economic organization that proclaimed its intimate relations with politics and pronounced the S. L. P. its political expression. The S. T. and L. A. was no sooner launched than it became the target for the bitter assault of the A. F. of L. The struggle was, of course, carried into the Party by the representatives of the A. F. of L. and a conflict ensued that culminated in a split in 1899. One portion of the S. L. P. pulled out and declared "Neutrality" toward Unionism, while the body of the S. L. P. pronounced "Neutrality" only a mask behind which to conceal partisanism in favor of corrupt Unionism. The struggle, up to 1899, carried within the S. L. P., now continued between the S. L. P. on the one side, and, on the other, a new party, in which the bolters from the S. L. P. were incorporated.

This new party consisted of heterogeneous elements. It had sprung up in the West under the leadership of Eugene V. Debs. As far as the Western party received a character from Mr. Debs, its policy was hostile to that of the bolters from the S. L. P. Mr. Debs had risen into prominence as a founder of revolutionary Unions against the reactionary Brotherhoods of railroad employees. His name stood essentially for exactly the opposite of the bolters from the S. L. P., who proposed to "bore from within" only, a slang phrase that meant "Don't disturb the labor leaders." Unity between the Debs element and the bolters from the S. L. P. would have been impossible but for the circumstance that the Question of Unionism was not considered essential by the Debs element. The point of contact between the two was the Utopianism of both—the bolters from the S. L. P. held to the Utopian idea that the "Union was a vanishing thing" and therefore should be humored; the Debs element held to the Utopian idea that votes would be enough to overthrow capitalism. The two Utopianisms merged into one. The Socialist party was formed.

The formation of the Socialist party gave impetus to the development of the Socialist Labor Party principle. The S. L. P. principle soon took shape in the principle that the Union was an essential factor in the emancipation of the Working Class. The Marxian motto, "Only the Union can give birth to the true party of Labor" became the guiding light of the S. L. P. The Party lay main stress upon the organization of the working class into revolutionary Unions, and considered the ballot, however important, useful and necessary, a secondary consideration. The S. P., on the contrary, held the Union to be unimportant, the ballot everything.

Within five years after the issue had been thus presented, the economic events of the land gave birth to a manifestation that confirmed the S. L. P. principle. The Industrial Workers of the World was organized, mainly by revolters from the A. F. of L. The S. T. & L. A. joined the new body. Experience had clarified many a division of the S. P., and they gave their adhesion to the I. W. W. Immediately the scenes enacted when the S. T. & L. A. was founded began to be re-enacted. The I. W. W. became the target for a fierce onslaught. A conspiracy was concocted to disrupt it and came nearly succeeding in 1905. The conspiracy being baffled, the Socialist Movement entered upon its present stage.

The S. P. principle of "Neutrality" was thoroughly discredited. Every day the struggle between the two parties brings out clearer and clearer that "Neutrality" means, on the one side, economic corruption and encouraging of craft union scabbery; on the other side, political corruption through the sacrifice of principle to votes.

The S. L. P. principle that the vote is worthless and political victory calamitous if there is not ready organized the Industrial Union ready to take and hold the reins of government—that principle is steadily gaining ground.

The S. P. vote is dropping heavily. Votes being all that the S. P. had, its downfall is inevitable.

As to the S. L. P., the conflict has greatly affected its voting strength also. But seeing the S. L. P. had a principle, which is triumphantly asserting itself, its victory is assured.

THAT LETTER OF FRANK BOHN TO EUGENE V. DEBS

Complying with the requests and promises made to several comrades to publish the facts in connection with Frank Bohn's resignation from the Party, and his letter to Debs bearing on the Unity question, I request the Editor of The People to give space to the following statement.

It is so much more timely seeing that many of the comrades, not being in possession of the facts showing the real character of that letter to Debs which so illumines the real character of its author, still incline, as I myself did up to the moment I learned about that document, to give Bohn "the benefit of the doubt," and to still think that, no matter what slips of judgment and even of ethical character he committed while in the Party, his sincerity and his good intentions could not be questioned.

Some of the comrades even imagine that Bohn, being "driven out of the Socialist Labor Party by too severe judgment and unjust persecution" went over to the Socialist Party to "bore from within" that party for that great and noble principle—Socialist Unity, the amalgamation of the two parties of Socialism in America into one. It appeared to be so evident, as he emphasized since last November on every occasion the absolute necessity of Socialist unity in this country, if for no other purpose, at least for the sake of the Industrial Workers of the World.

"So long as the two parties are not united they wrangle, the fight is transferred into the I. W. W., and it becomes impossible to build up the latter organization, which is so important for the success of Socialism in America. We must bring about unity of the two parties at any cost if we want to see the I. W. W. grow!" That appeared to be his keynote to all discussions on the subject he held with me and other comrades. He appeared to be so enthusiastically, fanatically devoted to the idea that he was willing to sacrifice the Party to that idea and even went to the length of committing, apparently for the sake of that idea, a deliberately dishonest act. It was the act of obtaining under false pretences his credentials to the recent N. Y. State convention of the S. L. P. by permitting his constituents, the comrades in New York, to believe, as they naturally had to, that he, like all other delegates, was going to that convention to represent not his personal views and wishes, but those of his constituents, who knew that the avowed and primary object of the convention was to conform with the traditional policy of the Party and to nominate candidates for the approaching State and national campaign, while the plan of Mr. Bohn was, as he stated in a letter to the undersigned, to try to prevent the nomination of candidates of the S. L. P. by that convention, not by voicing his personal opinion as an individual member, which he had a right to do, but by misrepresenting his constituents and misusing the delegate's credentials which he thus fraudulently obtained.

The plan was exposed just in time and the State convention, although containing among its delegates some very strongly devoted upholders of Bohn and his policies in the Party, decided by a unanimous vote to refuse Bohn the seat he secured under false pretences. He then resigned from the S. L. P. and—did he then confine his activities to the I. W. W. movement, as some of his followers do? No, he joined the S. P., that same S. P. which at that date stood already absolutely revealed as an uncompromising opponent and repudiator of the decisions of the International Socialist Movement on the vital questions of Unionism, Socialist Unity and International Proletarian Solidarity—Immigration! . . .

Even at this point there was still room for people inclined to be exceedingly and excessively confiding, fair, impartial, dispassionate, etc., to believe, in their innocence and simplicity, that the man's sincerity and intention might still not be questionable, that even these last acts showed only his exceedingly poor judgment and understanding of the condition and actual requirements of the Socialist Movement in America, but that they were prompted by pure motives, by his fanatical, consuming anxiety to advance inside the S. P. camp the issue that he was so anxious about—the cause of Socialist Unity.

But what conclusions will even these people draw from the following fact, not intraceably rumored about, but publicly reported by a disinterested person in the presence of the undersigned, of comrade Sam J. French, of a number of Chicago comrades and of hundreds of visitors and delegates to the recent Chicago National convention of the Socialist Party? This fact can be related in a few brief sentences, but every word of them glaringly illumines by retrospect Bohn's whole record in the Party and burns a hole in the confidence and respect which many of our members and friends still endeavored to preserve for the man.

The fact, recorded by the official stenographer during the night session of the National Convention of the Socialist Party, held at Brandt's Hall, Chicago, Thursday evening, May 14th last, is as follows:

The Convention has just received the majority report and two minority reports of the Committee on Resolutions bearing on Unity with Socialist Labor Party. Before the discussion on this momentous question is opened the previous question, moved by a minister—Rev. Carr—and seconded by another representative of that fraternity—ex-Rev. Strickland—is adopted, thus limiting the discussion from the outset to two speeches on each side of the three propositions before the convention. Ben Hanford opens fire by a venomous, vicious attack on the S. L. P., claiming with froth at the mouth and wild, rolling eyes that the S. L. P. is not a Socialist party but a scab party, a snake, and after more of such ranting closes with a hysterical screech: "Shall we take the serpent to our bosom and warm him? I say no, and no, and no!!!" At this psychological moment, when poor Hanford, pale, trembling and exhausted by his effort, a la hero of the legend, to destroy the snake, had resumed his seat, the floor is given to J. E. Snyder, one of the delegates from the State of Kansas.

Snyder declares that coming to the convention he stopped at Girard, Kan., where the "Appeal to Reason" is published, that he met there Eugene V. Debs and saw a letter recently written by Frank Bohn, the former National Secretary of the S. L. P., to Debs, in which Bohn announces that he withdrew from the Socialist Labor Party, that he intends to join the Socialist Party "if they will take him in," and that he, BOHN, URGES THE SOCIALIST PARTY TO PAY NO ATTENTION TO ANY ADVANCES FOR UNITY COMING FROM "DE LEON AND THE SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY."—And all unity propositions, even those supported by Hilquit and Simons, went down.

To this dramatic incident, publicly as it convicts of vindictinveness and duplicity a man whom so many of us held so tenaciously as a straightforward and, at least, well-intentioned comrade — an element of comedy was added by delegate A. Wagenknecht of the State of Washington when, later in the debate, trying to properly discount Bohn's advice to Debs he humorously exclaimed: "Comrade De Leon and Comrade Bohn are not good friends, and Comrade De Leon fired Comrade Bohn, and now Comrade Bohn tries to get even by writing that letter to Debs!"

P. S.—This communication is sent on condition that, if it is published, over my signature, it is expressly understood what is generally merely implied, that those concerned—Bohn, Debs or Snyder—are free to use the columns of this paper to contradict the fact mentioned here, if they wish and can.

Boris Reinstein.

Buffalo, N. Y.

A CRAFT UNION CONSTITUTION ANALYZED

BY C. W. PEACHEY, MANOR PARK, ESSEX, ENGLAND.

I have just come into possession of the constitution of the International Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employees. I received the same from a brother of mine who, some eighteen months ago, left England to seek a "fortune" in the West. On the top of the cover he has written these words, with an air of pride: "This is the union Albert and I belong to." Knowing something of pure and simple unionism I was not deceived by the word "International" in the title, but proceeded to turn up the preamble. To find what? Such an example of craft unionism, pure and simple suicidal idiocy as I reckon it would be hard to beat in the whole range of British, Canadian and U. S. craft unionism. The preamble is as follows:

"The objects of this organization are:

"1. To exalt the character and increase the ability of maintenance-of-way employes to perform their *duties*.

"2. To insure greater safety to the travelling public *and greater economy in the maintenance-of-way department by interchanging ideas and discovering the best methods of performing our duties*.

"3. *To benefit our employers by raising the standard of efficiency of maintenance-of-way employes.*

"4. To alleviate distress among sick or disabled members.

"5. To bury deceased members.

"6. To provide for the widows and orphans of deceased members.

"7. *To allow no person to remain a member of the Brotherhood unless he lives a sober, moral life.*

"8. *To require all members to faithfully and honestly perform their duties to the best of their ability for the companies employing them.*

"9. To use all honorable means to secure the passage of laws beneficial TO THE CRAFT, and to improve the condition of maintenance-of-way employes.

(The italics are mine.)

I was about to insert the word "Amen," but on consulting the Preamble I find that by some oversight this has been omitted.

And this is a "union" of workingmen! Could a more contemptible or miserable sight be found. The wage slave, tricked, buffeted, herded in filth, daily robbed of the product of his toil, organized for the purpose of providing his master with as much plunder as possible, and then quietly and respectably burying himself!

The whole of the Preamble can be summed up in items 3 and 5. "To benefit our employers by raising the standard of efficiency of maintenance-of-way employes," and "To bury deceased members."

Ye Gods! This is a sight over which ye yourselves might weep. Meantime, thousands of unemployed are pouring weekly into Canada. With what result? Competition is becoming keener and ever keener among the workers, and as surely and inevitably as these organized workers are the biggest damphools in creation, their wages will gradually be reduced lower and lower until they hardly have enough to subsist upon. What is more, with their identity of interest theory, with their love and careful solicitude of their employers' welfare, they cannot resist these reductions. Indeed, the fakirs who lead them and train them as profit-making machines have already guarded against this, for in Section II. of Laws Governing the Protective Department of the International Brotherhood they are told: "Joint Protective Boards shall have the power to enter into agreements with railroad officials respecting wages and terms of employment of the men they represent. They shall have power to adjust all grievances of a general character arising from a violation of said rules or agreements. Said rules and agreements, when properly signed by the officers of a railway or system of railways and the Joint Protective Board and approved by the Grand President, shall be binding upon all members employed on that railway or system of railways."

Careful provision is made for fooling around for months before a strike can be declared, so that the employers can have full warning and make all necessary preparations for meeting the same. And "any member or members causing a strike or participating therein except as hereinbefore provided, shall be expelled from the Brotherhood."

Such is the craft and duplicity of the labor fakir and the ignorance of the pure and simple craft union worker.

On the other hand, race hatred is cultivated by the capitalist and his labor lieutenant to the utmost of their capacity: Section I. of Article XII. says that "Any employe *born of white parents*, who can read and write, who is sober, moral and otherwise of good character . . . is eligible to membership in the Brotherhood." And so we find the workers, instead of fighting the man who robs them, reviling the Negro, the Chinaman, the Britisher, in fact, any and every one of their fellow workers. The capitalist may be black, white or green. No matter, they love him.

In so far as any attention is given to political action it is "to secure the passage of laws beneficial to the craft." The rest of the working class may go to Hades so long as *they* and their master's profits are not endangered.

Once again the obvious fact is borne upon our notice that class solidarity and class-conscious action, industrial and political, is the only hope of the workers. Railway workers, look the facts in the face and admit that your masters, the men who enslave you, the men who rob you, are your enemies, and organize with your fellow workers for the overthrow of the whole crew and the establishment of the Workers' Republic.

SECTION CALENDAR.

Under this head we shall publish standing advertisements of Section headquarters, or other permanent announcements. The charge will be five dollars a year for five lines.

Section San Francisco, Cal., S. L. P. Headquarters, Hungarian Socialist Federation, Lettonian Socialist Labor Federation, 883 McAllister street.

Los Angeles, Cal., Headquarters and public reading rooms at 409 East Seventh street. Public educational meetings Wednesday evenings. People readers are invited to our rooms and meetings.

Section Cleveland, Ohio, S. L. P., meets every alternate Sunday at 356 Ontario street (Ger. Am. Bank Bldg.) top floor, at 3 P. M.

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Section Allentown, Pa., S. L. P., meets every first Saturday in the month at 8 p. m. Headquarters 815 Hamilton street.

Section Providence, R. I., 81 Dyer st., room 8. Regular meetings second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

New Jersey State Executive Committee, S. L. P.—John Hossack, Secretary, 22 Fulton Ave., Jersey City; Fred. Gerold, Financial Secretary, 102 Waverly St., Jersey City, N. J.

Chicago, Illinois.—The 14th Ward Branch, Socialist Labor Party, meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday, 2 p. m. sharp, at Friedmann's Hall, S. E. corner Grand and Western avenues. Workingmen and women are cordially invited.

Section Seattle, S. L. P., headquarters, free reading room and lecture hall, No. 2000 Second avenue. P. O. address, Box 1040.

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All communications intended for the Minnesota S. E. C. should be addressed to Otto Olson, 310 7th ave., So. Minneapolis, Minn.

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SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1888	2,068
In 1892	21,157
In 1896	36,564
In 1900	34,191
In 1904	34,172

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1908.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY

PRESIDENTIAL TICKET.

For President:
AUGUST GILLHAUS,
Engineer, New York, as Proxy for
MORRIE R. PRESTON,
Now in the Nevada State Penitentiary for the legitimate exercise of the right of self-defense on picket-duty, and whom delicacy prevents from personally appearing on the ballot.

For Vice-President:
DONALD L. MUNRO,
Machinist, Virginia.

No one has a right to superfluity so long as there is any who has not the necessaries.

—EUGENE SUE.

THE CLOVEN HOOF OF PROHIBITIONISM.

The Prohibitionist platform opens with an invocation to the Creator. That sounds quite pious. But before one reaches the end of the document something exactly the opposite of pious, in fact, a cloven hoof, is run up against. Towards the end of the Prohibitionist platform this plank occurs among the demands, or promises made:

"An equitable and constitutional employers' liability law."

"What!", one hears the pious Prohibitionist exclaim; "would thee have an UNequitable, an UNconstitutional employers' liability law?"

There is no such qualifying word as "equitable" or "constitutional" placed before the Prohibitionist demand for the closing of the warehouses or saloons in which alcoholic liquors are sold; or before the Prohibition demand for the boarding up of the establishments in which alcoholic liquors are manufactured; nor yet before the Prohibition demand for blocking the exportation, importation or transportation of alcoholic liquors. These demands are made without the qualifying word that they shall be "equitable"; nor are the demands clogged by constitutional qualms.

Prohibitionism justly and unerringly concludes (from its premises, which hold alcoholic liquor to be a nuisance,) that the nuisance must be abated without further ado. If a thing is a nuisance its continuance is contrary to public policy. There is no such thing as an "UNequitable" treatment of a nuisance: a nuisance should be treated in only one way—with utter disregard for its comfort, or "equities", of which it is not supposed to have any. Nor is it supposable that a nuisance can be sheltered under a single feather of the Constitutional wing: in point of "Constitution", a nuisance is an outlaw. Nothing, accordingly, is more legitimate—if the manufacture, sale, exportation, importation and transportation of alcoholic liquors for beverage is held to be a nuisance—than that the practices be torn up, branch and root, and to proceed upon the principle that to do so, so far from possibly violating the Constitution, has the sanction, backing and encouragement of the Constitution itself.

For the identical reasons, indeed, much more so, an employers' liability stances be tainted with UNequitable-law can under no imaginable circumness, or can it be supposed to be UNconstitutional. The Constitution expressly declares that its purpose is "to establish justice" and "promote the general welfare." A social system under which a single citizen (let alone the large majority of the people, as happens under the present system of capitalism) can find himself, without any fault of his own, in such a state of wretchedness as to be forced to sell himself in wage-slavery to a wage-slave-holder, called "employer"—such a social system does violence to the purpose of the Constitution; under such a social system employership is a nuisance; and the least that both Equity and the Constitution demand is that the employer be prevented from taking greater advantage of his wage-slave than to plunder him: the neglect of the employer to protect the limbs and life of his wage-slave is a nuisance that eclipses all that Prohibitionism claims for the nuisance of alcoholic liquors. No employers' liability law can be too drastic, or too sweeping. The very idea of an employers' liability law being "UNequitable" or "UNconstitutional" is preposterous, and in direct contradiction to the juridic reasoning upon which Prohibitionism is soundly planted.

Whence, then, the difference of posture assumed by Prohibitionism? Why does Prohibitionism grapple ruthlessly with what it considers a nuisance, and go about gingerly in the treatment of an even worse nuisance?

The plank in question exposes the cloven hoof of the professional Prohibitionist. Seventy-five per cent of the gentlemen who assembled as delegates to the Prohibition convention at Columbus were employers; ninety-nine per cent of the Prohibitionist national and State officers are beneficiaries of employership—some even high officials in Trusts. Any one of these leading Prohibitionists is directly responsible for more drunkenness—the foolish yet well established asylum of the poverty that employership steeps the masses in—than a score of distilleries, or a hundred saloons.

No wonder these gentlemen prate of "equitable" employers' liability laws—no employers' liability law is equitable to the plunderer of the workingmen.

No wonder these gentlemen twaddle about "constitutional" employers' liability laws—nothing is ever constitutional that pares the fangs of any limb of a ruling class.

Not the Creator should Prohibitionists, in prayer meetings or conventions assembled, invoke. Their tutelary deity is the cloven hoofed Old Nick.

THE HEARST NEW PAPER WAGON.

The Independence Party has been launched. It was launched in Chicago on the 27th of July amidst a fair collection of neat epigrams. Among the delegates present there were not a few men of undoubted sincerity; and, no doubt, they represent many more, outside of the convention, likewise sincere—we should say credulous. Indeed, were it not for the credulous upon whom they fasten, schemers would have no standing ground.

The Independence Party is a unique apparition on the field of American politics. Of course, political movements ever are reflexes of economic interests, and so is the Independence Party. In this instance, however, and apart from the credulous who imagine they have "launched a Revolution," the economic interests subserved are not those of an economic class; they are not even those of an individual; they are the interest of only one branch of the industries of a single individual. In short, the Independence Party is a political advertising medium for the journalistic ventures of William Randolph Hearst.

To put the matter in still simpler form, the Independence Party is but a tender to the Hearst papers.

Such a political party never was before. Whether it is the precursor of similar apparitions, to be born of the embrace of general social decomposition and daring capitalists' enterprise, remains to be seen. Already a shoe manufacturer of Massachusetts was seen to invest $30,000 in a gubernatorial campaign for himself, and thereby, especially through his election, get his name, and thereby his special brand of shoes, advertised throughout the land. In the instance of Douglas, however, he simply "purchased a seat" in a political coach, the Democratic party, already in existence. The Independence party is a new political coach, gotten up to order by Hearst. In this lies the epoch-making feature of the Independence party.

The millionaire of to-day "buys" things. He buys railroads, women, yachts, office, newspapers, etc. These industries have, each of them, their subsidiary branches. Oil has ore mines and tin cans as subsidiary branches; railroads have coal mines, stock exchanges and newspapers as subsidiary branches. Sugar refineries have shipping and plantations as subsidiary branches. And so forth. The Hearst newspapers have the Independence party as a subsidiary branch.

When the millionaire Hearst turned his attention to the industry of manufacturing shoddy news he found it necessary to "extend" into subsidiary branches. One of these was the investing in wagons to carry his papers swiftly from the factory to the stands. The next step was an improved paper wagon—a wagon of national jurisdiction. Such a new paper wagon is Hearst's Independence party.

CASTRO'S PREDICAMENT.

"Complications" between the Latin American republics and European powers are nothing new. They started almost immediately after the independence of Latin America from Spain. Indeed the "complications" were born with and of the Latin American war for independence. The moneys raised in Europe, England especially, to carry on the war against Spain speedily became the basis for "complications." The loans were outrageously usurious. The outrage of the usury could have been borne; but it bred a craving after fresh extortions. With the usurious loans as a basis, that Latin America never disputed, European nations proceeded to conduct themselves like veritable roaring hyenas, and to make fresh exaction, that Latin America resisted. The story is a long one. It is punctuated with "blockades," "bombardments," occasional "invasions," followed by treaties that usually were compromises, and often victories for Latin America.

The present "complications" with Venezuela are of a different species.

Originally, the "complications" were only about the collection of debts by an exacting and unscrupulous creditor, and the natural resistance of the debtor. The present "complication" involves no less an issue than that between Capitalism and Landlordism, in fact, Feudalism. Castro typifies feudality, Holland, just now; a few years ago England, France and Germany; and, in between, the United States, typify capitalism, pure and simple, in these recently recurring "complications." Originally, accordingly, when the issue was between greedy creditorship and outraged debtorship, the fates rather sided with Venezuela; now that the issue is a truly historic one, an issue involving nothing less than the overthrow of a regime that has seen its day, feudality, and its substitution by the next order of things, capitalism—now the fates are against Venezuela.

This fact Castro knows. He is a man of culture and learning — vastly the superior of any of the rafts of minister plenipotentiaries and consuls from Europe and the United States with whom he has had to deal, and whom it was easy work for him to throw—witness the fate of our own Loomis, "acting Secretary of State." Nevertheless, all the culture and knowledge of a man can not always overpower long acquired habits of thought, which have had time to warm into feeling, and which then become part and parcel of his material being, his physical and mental anatomy. Castro is to-day an atavistic creation of a Venezuela that was, but is no more—is no more because she is of this planet, and the planet's orbit has whirled her into a social climate that dooms her feudalism and enforces capitalism, as inevitably as her tropic vegetation will be doomed to make place for the vegetation of the temperate zone when the next glacial period shall have physically changed her climate.

Castro's posture is tragic—as tragic as was that of the Indian caciques who, with bow and arrow, strove to contend against Castro's own Spanish forefathers. As the Indian cacique stood up with lyric rhymes in heroic defense of his old tribal social system against the invading Spaniards, who had that same tribal system full 2,000 years behind them, so Castro, to-day, wastes his impassioned rhetoric and the fervid throbs of his heart in defense of a feudal social system against the "invasion of barbarians from Europe or the United States," who have the same feudal system full 200 years behind them.

SELFISH MANUFACTURERS.

The Manufacturers' Association "is incensed' at the railroads for proposing to jack up rates. All the charges brought by the Manufacturers' Association against the railroads are true—true it is that Vice-President Brown of the New York Central Railroad is "insincere" when he claims that "rates have been constantly reduced"; true it is that the fact is rates have been soaring almost everywhere, almost uninterruptedly. All this is true. But there is another charge, as true, if not truer, which the manufacturers could have preferred against the railroads and yet do not. Why are they silent? Much hangs thereby.

The railroads are the lineal descendants of the robber-barons of the feudal system. What the "share in production" of robber-barons was is brilliantly portrayed in Eugene Sue's story "The Pilgrim's Shell." The robber-baron built his burg at strategic spots. He opened roads—such as they were. And then he raked in his "share" of the land's production, or enjoyed his "wages of abstinence," as he would have said had he any political economist among his retainers. This was done by pouncing upon the merchants, who usually were manufacturers themselves, and charging them "all that the traffic would bear," a euphonic modern term for the franker one of "plundering." What the robber-barons did then the railroads do now. What they call "rates" is nothing but tribute that they levy upon the manufacturer. And they levy, like all usurpers do, with a hand that is unkind.

Why do not the manufacturers bring out this fact? For the simple reason that, in the matter of vested right to plunder, capitalism is an enlarged feudal system. The railroads are the lineal descendants of the robber-barons of feudalism—**the manufacturers are the collateral descendants of the identical ancestry.**

What the robber-barons did to the merchant only, that the merchant or manufacturer now does to the proletariat—bleed them of all the blood their anatomy will bear.

The robber-barons plundered the bourgeois of his product, and, in order to render him all the more acquiescent, very generally put him to the torture, a process in the course of which the bourgeois not infrequently lost his life. The railroads do the identical thing to the modern bourgeois, or manufacturer: plunder him to their hearts' content, and not infrequently put him to the modern rack of threatening his business if he does not yield, a process in the course of which not infrequently suicide follows bankruptcy. All of which the modern bourgeois, or trading capitalist, does to his employes, the number of whom maimed and killed every year in mines and mills and shops exceeds the casualties of many a bloody field of battle.

In view of these facts the posture of the manufacturers towards the railroads is one of unqualified selfishness. They refuse to share with the railroads the plunder which only their kinship to the railroads enables both railroads and manufacturers to levy upon "the public." The railroads do not grudge the manufacturers their "legitimate share" of the workers' fleece: the manufacturers begrudge the railroads their share in the common "vested rights."

Well may the railroads toss their selfish collateral kinsmen contemptuously on their horns.

SONG OF THE UNENFRANCHISED.

We plough and sow: we're so very, very low
That we delve in the dirty clay
Till we bless the plain with golden grain,
And the vale with the fragrant hay.
Our place we know, we're so very low:
'Tis down at the landlord's feet;
We're not too low the grain to grow,
But too low the bread to eat.

Down, down we go—we're so very, very low—
To the hell of the deep-sunken mines;
But we gather the proudest gems that glow—
When the crown of a despot shines.
And when e'er he lacks, upon our backs
Fresh loads he deigns to lay;
We're far too low to vote the tax,
But not too low to pay.

We're low, we're low—we're rabble we know—
But at our plastic power
The world at the landlord's feet will grow
Into palace, church and tower.
Then prostrate fall in the rich man's hall,
And cringe at the rich man's door;
We're not too low to build the wall
But too low to tread the floor.

We're low, we're low—we're very, very low—
Yet from our fingers glide
The silken flow and the robes that glow
Round the limbs of the sons of pride.
And what we get, and what we give,
We know, and know our share;
We're not too low the cloth to weave
But too low the cloth to wear.

We're low, we're low—we're very, very low—
And yet when the trumpets ring,
The thrust of a poor man's arm will go
Through the heart of the proudest king.
We're low, we're low; our place we know:
We're only the rank and file;
We're not too low to fight the foe,
But too low to touch the spoil.

Anonymous.

The New York Labor News Company is the literary agency of the Socialist Labor Party. It prints nothing but sound Socialist literature.

WAGES AND MARRIAGE

As one manifestation of the panic which has quadrupled the number of unemployed in the country a year ago, is the fact noted by the town clerks and registrars that the number of marriages has fallen off from two-thirds to three-quarters.

How there can be sanctity of the home without homes is a mystery our capitalist friends must solve for us. How capitalism can be worshipped and kowtowed to as the preserver of the sanctity of the home, when it persistently tends to destroy both homes and sanctity, is another nut to crack, no easier than the first.

While the absolute number of marriages is, of course, increasing with the population, the relative proportion of married persons to unmarried is continually falling. The hard times at present descended and descending on the country will send this proportion rocket-like, earthward.

That, it is true, is an abnormal accentuation of the relative decrease of marriage and the even-stepped increase of immorality necessarily accompanying it. But even aside from the abnormalities of panic times, the whole trend of modern competitive society leads none the less surely because slowly in the same direction.

There are two tests by which the mating period of an animal, of whatever rank or species, is determined. One is the test of physical maturity, or the proper development necessary for the proper functioning of parenthood; the other might be called the test of economic maturity, or the proper development necessary for the animal to provide for his mate and the offspring.

In the lower animals, from the earthworm up to the manlike apes, these two maturities coincide. As soon as a jellyfish, a gull or a tiger has reached the growth which will enable him to become a parent, he also has the powers that will enable him to catch or kill food for those dependent upon him. Needs are few, the plane of life is not high, if, indeed, there can be said to be such a thing, often in the lower forms the young are able to take care of themselves from the moment of individual existence; often the mother, in nowise incapacitated by the duties of procreation from those of the chase or forage, can at once take up the task of providing for herself and the new arrivals. Every circumstance tends towards the spontaneous exercise, as soon as mature, of the functions of generation.

With mankind, however, the matter stands differently. Here mind enters into the problem, and upsets all previous working rules. Man must have started out in the beginning the same, in this regard, as his nearest ancestors. But, being a tool-using animal, he soon learned to accumulate stores of provisions against the time of need, and to build him shelters against the inclemency of the elements. Nature, taking advantage of this, in her desire to spread all species rapidly, before long removed, in man's case, the seasonal limits set to the mating of the animals of lower type. In other words, the reproductive impulse was made constant instead of intermittent. As man grew in mental stature, as literature, poesy, music and arts blossomed, artificial agencies came to second these natural impulses. Finally, in modern society the impure and stimulating foods, the crowded living, the tainted life forced in some way or other on nearly all, have assisted in driving back earlier and earlier the age of physical maturity — of course, reproductive maturity is meant.

On the other hand, what do we see happening to the age of economic maturity? Here, also, Nature took the lead in causing a variation. As animal forms ascend the scale, it takes the young a longer and longer period to become independent individuals. A young oyster is an oyster in a week or two after hatching; a pup is capable of self-support in a month, a horse in six months. In savage tribes the child of ten or twelve assumes the labors of adult-hood; civilized man has almost universally, both by laws and by opinion, set the age of independence at twenty-one.

With modern man the expansion of the scale of living, the increased cost of commodities, the lowering of real wages, and the general insecurity surrounding the making of a living, have forced still further on the age of economic maturity. A century ago in America, the majority of men married between twenty and thirty; to-day, it is more like thirty to forty. Thus, while the age of that maturity which fits man physically to enter parenthood has been steadily shortened, the age of economic ability to sustain a family has actually been lengthened in much faster tempo. The conflict between physical impulses and the material possibilities of satisfying them honorably and morally has been drawn sharp. To overload the brimming cup in the attempt to conjure down the ogre of its own creating, capitalism has established the house of ill repute, sometimes upheld even by ministers of the chaste Nazarene as "necessary to society."

The picture is dark, but it need not remain so. Proper and universal education, a change to purer and more wholesome methods of diet and living, the establishment of a system of production which will assure to every adult person willing to work a competence sufficient for all needs—that will solve the problem, and abolish from the earth the long blot of woman's debasement. But that means Socialism; hence he who stands and works not for Socialism is a drag on the wheels of race morality.

CLASS INSANITY

Dr. Allan McLane Hamilton, an alienist whose home is in Eldorado, Kan., is reported by the "Republican" of his town to say:

"The people of this country have no idea of the widespread lack of confidence the Old World has in this more or less happy land. Well, who in thunder cares what they think about us and ours? Were it not for this country thousands of people in the old country would die of starvation daily. Europe cannot raise a crop of peanuts without American ploughs; and they would not have a shirt to their backs without American cotton, while half of them would go barefooted but for American shoes. And if the impudent lobsters think we won't fight they had better try us. America can turn all Europe hatless, coatless, shirtless, barefooted, and barelegged in six months, while starving them to death; and it would not take us many months to whale the daylights out of them just to restore confidence."

Whether there is more sense than nonsense in this boast, or more nonsense than sense, fact is the element of truth is so large in the Doctor's words that their very brutality renders them useful.

The Doctor epitomizes the mental posture of the America capitalist—a genuine sample of paranoia.

There is no capitalist like the American—bumptious, ignorant, conceited, brutal. Many things combine in Europe to keep the brute in some degree of decency; everything combines in America to promote the brute's utter unutterableness. As he deals with the proletariat at home, so does he deal, or is ready to deal, with his fellow capitalists abroad.

At home the capitalist has created a condition of things, through the poverty of the masses and the disorganized state that his police spies keep the masses in, when he can say:

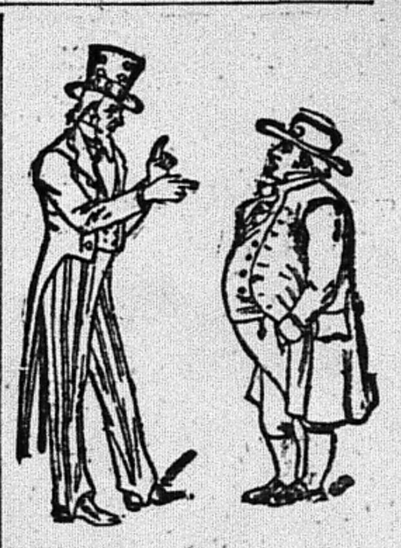
"The American workingmen can not buy a 5-cent package of peanuts without I am willing to furnish them wages; and they would not have a shirt to their backs without I opened my cotton mills, while half of them would go barefooted but for my willingness to operate my shoe factories. And if the impudent lobsters think I won't fight they had better try me. I can turn the whole working class hatless, coatless, shirtless, barefooted and barelegged in six months, while starving them to death; and it would not take me many months to whale the daylights out of them just to restore confidence."

As to Europe, or rather, the European capitalist, the American capitalist does not hold quite the power that he holds of the demoralized American wage slaves. Nevertheless, it is true that America is the pivot upon which international capitalism revolves. To a great extent the American capitalist is a "fly on the wheel" to the pivot; to an appreciable extent he has a good deal to say on the subject. What with both reasons, and especially with the despotic power he exercises here, the American capitalist swaggers over creation as THE thing, a victim of paranoia.

Not frequently is the exhibition of the American capitalist's mental irresponsibility exhibited as glaringly as it is in the instance of Dr. Allan McLane Hamilton of Eldorado, Kans. The usefulness of the exhibition lies in the glaringness of its manifestation.

OPPORTUNISM RAPPED BY LOCAL GRAND RAPIDS.

At a meeting yesterday afternoon called for the purpose of voting upon the platform of the Socialist national convention and the platform suggested by the National Committee, local members of the party unhesitatingly condemned the "demands" of the National Committee. Considerable fiery oratory was indulged in and the Socialists denounced the Committee. It was asserted the Committee had made an effort to hoodwink the Socialists of the country. The platform has been submitted to local organizations throughout the country and **the Grand Rapids** Socialists did not hesitate to send their bitterly critical report on the subject matter. It is condemned on the broad ground of being too Populistic in tone.—"The Wage Slave" (S. P.), Mich., July 24.



UNCLE SAM AND BROTHER JONATHAN.

BROTHER JONATHAN — Just as soon as I have a chance I am going to make a list of all the good men in office and all the good men who are being nominated for office.

UNCLE SAM—To what end?

B. J.—To the end of voting for them, regardless of party.

U. S.—Whither drifteth thee?

B. J.—Toward good common sense. Do you think I don't learn from experience? I do. I was until last election a firm Republican or Democrat, I don't remember which. But I shall not continue to be the slave of any party, not I! I shall henceforth vote an eclectic ticket. I shall only vote for the best man put up.

U. S.—Then you won't vote with me the straight Socialist Labor Party ticket?

B. J.—Straight ticket? No, sir. There are good men among the Socialists, but they are not all angels. There are pretty bad men among the Republicans, Democrats and Hearstites, I'll admit; but they are not all devils.

U. S.—If you want free trade do you look to the candidates or to the platform when you vote?

B. J.—What do I care for the candidates in such a case? I vote for the platform.

U. S.—If you want high tariff legislation do you look to the candidates whether they are "good" men, or to the platform they stand on?

B. J.—Why, of course not; I vote for the high tariff platform.

U. S.—If you get a notion that what you need is the silver cure, do you stop to inquire of the excellence of the silver bug candidates?

B. J.—No, of course not.

U. S.—Now, then, what you have admitted amounts to this: That if you are after a principle, it is the principle you vote for, not the men. Consequently, so long as you look to the candidates you are not after a principle.

B. J.—By Jericho! Caught before I thought of it!

U. S.—If, then, you want Socialism, you should vote for the Socialist platform straight.

B. J.—That's all right. I'm caught. If I want Socialism I should not consider the candidates, but the platform upon which they stand. Here goes for the Socialist Labor Party ticket straight, from top to bottom.

TRAFFIC IN GIRLS.

White Slave Trade Victims Taken from Steamer.

Corunna, Spain, July 26. — The embarkation at this port of a number of young women on board the steamship Isla de Panay prior to the sailing of the vessel nominally for Teneriffe aroused the suspicions of local authorities, who yesterday conducted an investigation. This disclosed the fact that dozens of young girls, mostly minors, were stowed away on board the steamer.

The authorities forced all the young women they could find to disembark. Some of the girls, it was learned later, had been bought from their parents, while others had run away from home. As far as possible they all will be returned to their homes.

After the departure of the vessel it was reported that there were still a number of women concealed on board. Consequently the Governor of Corunna telegraphed to Cadiz, where the steamer stops, ordering that another search be made.

The most plausible explanation of the occurrence was that the girls were intended for the white slave traffic. The crew claimed the ship was found for Teneriffe, where the girls were to become household servants, but it is believed that the steamer was going on to Cuba, where the white slave trade is said to flourish.

If ever King Edward was sincere it was when he expressed to the Congress of Peace his desire to avert war. Peace, to Edward, means continued possession; war, to Edward, who now is in possession, means a fresh cast of the dice, fraught with all manner of dangerous possibilities.

CORRESPONDENCE

[Correspondents who prefer to appear in print under an assumed name will attach such name to their communications, besides their own signature and address. None other will be recognized.]

PLEASED WITH PRESTON'S NOMINATION.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—I am pleased with the nomination of Preston.

That stroke opened an ulcer on the capitalist body which will fester there as long as the capitalist system exists.

C. H. T.

North Atteboro, Mass., July 24.

ENRAGED HOWLS MAKE SYMPATHIZER LAUGH.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—For over a year I have been sending copies of the Daily People to an esteemed friend in Rochester. His instincts and sympathies were socialistic, but he was not well grounded in Socialism. To-day I received my reward in a letter from him in which he says: "I now see clearly the S. L. P. is the real bona-fide party of Socialism, and not of luke-warm reforms. I was greatly pleased with the convention in nominating Preston and Munro. I understand it clearly. It was a fine move. Such a howl as the capitalist class put up makes me laugh every time I think of it."

I am glad to know my efforts have not been fruitless.

H. H. L.

New Haven, Conn., July 24.

ENDORSES PRESTON'S NOMINATION

To the Daily and Weekly People:—I send you a clipping of an editorial published in one of our leading newspapers, "Times-Democrat," commenting on the nomination of Preston by the Socialist Labor Party for presidency of the United States.

I had just read your editorial on the interview of Joshua Wanhope (When Hope?) when my eyes came across the editorial above referred. No better nomination at this time, in my opinion, could be made as a condemnation of the present system of our government and society. Yes, "Delanda est Karthago." Nothing else will do when one per centum of our populatoin own and control 75 per cent. of the wealth created by 99 per centum of the population. Using that immense power as a sword over the heads of all the people, terrorizing them into submissoin or starve. Such condition is bringing this country into the times of "Sodom and Gomora." I would like to know if Mr. Wanhope's Socialism is unconcerned about that.

Preston was convicted and sent to jail because he protested against that system of society. Wanhope's Socialism winks on that, but it has its eyes wide open on the imaginary backward race danger. Remove Wanhope; he is not a Socialist if he is against Preston. Is Orchard still at large?

Negro Socialist.

New Orleans, July 22.

ON S. L. P. CONVENTION AND PRESTON'S NOMINATION.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—I was pleased in reading the report of the national convention of the S. L. P. to note the change in the constitution relative to the pure and simple trades unions. In fact, I have always believed that it was a mistake to bar our members from holding office in such unions as we have a way by which we can expel any member that fails to do the right thing.

I may be mistaken but it strikes me that it was a great mistake to nominate Preston for President. It is the first time in the history of our party when our speakers have been put up against such a proposition. While we know that Preston is O. K., yet it will require much time from now on to defend Preston while 4 years ago all we had to do was to defend our principles.

S. B. Hutchinson.

Grand Junction, Colo., July 16.

A PROTEST AGAINST THE S. L. P. CONVENTION.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—The following resolution was adopted unanimously at a special meeting, July 19th, 1908, by Section Hoquiam of the Socialist Labor Party:

Whereas, The National Convention of the Socialist Labor Party assembled in New York on July 2-3-4 has seen fit to cut out of the constitution Article 2 Section 7, "that no officer of a pure and simple trade or labor organization shall be a member of a Section of the S. L. P."; therefore be it

Resolved, That Section Hoquiam of the S. L. P. condemns the action taken by the National Convention in such reactionary tactics; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent for publication to our official organs, the Daily and Weekly People.

Geo. T. Reuter,
Lewis Cook,
(Committee).

Hoquiam, Wash, July 19.

WHY THEY HOWL.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—I have read with pleasure and satisfaction "The Howl" published in the issue of the Daily People July 22.

The capitalists are doubtless duly thankful for your kindness in republishing their literary productions. The proletariat is delighted with your service in this line: this brings to its heart a peace which passeth all understanding. Verily it seems the lion and the lamb are about to lie down together. As in the nature of things this can not be unless one is absorbed by the other, it is a question of universal interest which is the lion.

"The Literary Digest" like most of the other howlers, lays much stress upon the comparative youthfulness of Preston as an aspirant for the Presidency as gauged by the Constitution, and appears to be wonderfully disturbed because he is in prison under a long sentence, and because it has been publicly stated that if elected he would be seated in the chair of the Chief Executive. Why do the capitalists worry so much about these little irregularities as difficulties in the way or obstructions to his taking the seat if elected? They know if voted for by the working class as a class he will be overwhelmingly elected. They fear the working class may develop enough class solidarity to do so; they know it is liable to occur at any election, and the present time is favorable for such a result.

The capitalists know of a law, even better than the working class, a law international in character and so solidly based that no court dare attempt to obstruct it, before which constitutions and man made laws fade and disappear. It is

Vox Populi, Vox Dei.

This law is generally recognized as extensively as the Christian religion prevails, and as far as appealed to has been triumphantly sustained. The editor's silly twaddle about Preston getting a pardon and being dynamited out of prison is pure unadulterated rot, and by the way, none but capitalist representatives talk of the use of dynamite; at the voice of the people the gates of the Bastille swung open and the innocent victims walked out. And at the voice of God that mighty fortress with its towers and battlements crumbled to dust, and in its place a magnificent monument sprang up to commemorate the event.

No class conscious workingman has any excuse to offer for Preston's shooting his assailant. He did precisely right which is his sufficient defence; he was fortunate in being quicker and of more steady nerve than his assailant, or his life would have been sacrificed and his murderer would have been lauded to the skies and protected by the capitalist class as they have worshiped at the altar of Harry Orchard.

There is another law more universally accepted than the one referred to, and requires no religion for its sanctification. It is:

"Self preservation is the first law of nature."

This law is appealed to by nations as well as by individuals. In time of war and other great national danger all constitutional limitations or other laws are suspended that interfere with the administration doing what is considered necessary. This is justified on the grounds of "war measures." Martial law is established: this is the suspension of all law and is a most desperate expedient, and only resorted to in case of war.

Are we not in a state of war? There is an irrepressible conflict raging between the capitalist and the working class which will go on with ever-increasing intensity until the issue between them is finally settled. The time is close at hand for the working class to proceed under the law of self preservation; vox Populi, vox Dei.

H. H. Lane.

New Haven, Conn., July 24.

FINDING OUT! ONWARD!

To the Daily and Weekly People:—Speaking as an unattached Revolutionary Socialist, I may say that the comparisons I have made between the rank and file of the S. L. P. and those of the S. P. in America show the first named—the S. L. P.—in a most advantageous light. I have found them more enthusiastic, more cordial, hospitable and generous than their S. P. confreres. Further, their alacrity in "getting the hand down" when the collection box comes around is unsurpassable. The ignorance of the average S. P. man in regard to the S. L. P. is appalling. Even some S. P. speakers are as deficient in this respect as is a clam of esthetics. In a recent conversation with one of these kid-glove worthies I alluded to the periodical plaintive whines for support of the "only Socialist daily in the English language," and cited the Daily People as a shining example of what can be done by the "few but fit," when the buffoon turned round and told me in all seriousness that De Leon and the Daily People were in the pay of and under capitalists' control!!!

Long and loud, sardonic and demoniacal was my laughter. In fact, I still draw on its memories when the means for a broad smile are lacking. Ye Gods! An ounce of civet, good apothecary! But what can you expect from those nurtured on the canned milk of opportunism?

The howls of some S. P. men when Preston was nominated by the S. L. P. were excruciatingly, shriekingly funny. Many of these susceptible sugar-coated ones were not aware that such a man as Preston existed! Such is S. P. Socialism! That the Lord may deliver me from such stroke-'em'the-right-way "Socialism" as that is the prayer of

A Benighted Briton.

Knoxville, Tenn., July 28.

LET WIDE-AWAKES TAKE A HAND.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—Quite frequently of late I have noticed communications from various members and Socialists not connected with the S. L. P. exposing the rascally methods of The Appeal to Reason. That is right. Let those who can put their exposures in a presentable manner, as was done in the Open Letter to Wayland; lose no opportunity to do it, and don't leave it all to the editor of The People. It is much better to have most of the drubbing come from the wide awakes out on the battlefield. It is plain that The Appeal is exploiting the Socialist movement and that it is also a medium for capitalist commercial (bunco or otherwise) concerns to do likewise. "Comrades, be safe. Now is the time to buy land in New Mexico." "The time is past when only the plutocratic capitalist can own land in this country." "The Girard Manufacturing Co. is owned by 900 as revolutionary bunch of Socialists as ever came down the pike." (Ah Whoop.) These are choice morsels of socialistic dope handed out by the "One Hoss" Wayland and his staff of wonderful scribes to those athirst for light. I wonder if it wouldn't be just as consistent to see in the Salvation Army "War Cry": "Brothers and sisters, be safe. Now is the time to buy land in New Mexico," or, "The time has passed when only ungodly can own land on our Heavenly Father's footstool." But Girard knows its business. "Spicy" reading does the rest.

E. Rouner.

Shawmut, Cal., July 11.

FRED. WEIDMANN.

One more of the old members of the Socialist Labor Party has passed away.

Fred Weidmann, who has been a member of Section Pittsfield, Mass., S. L. P., for about ten years, died two weeks ago in the hospital of Mercy, after having been sick nearly eleven months. He was, according to his wish, sent to Troy for cremation.

Whereas, Fred Weidmann, who was an old sailor, always had been a strong fighter for progress, once belonging to the Knights of Labor, and his mind not only always receptive to the teachings and to new discoveries of science, but also always promulgating his progressive thoughts to his fellow-man and always, within his little sphere of activity, working for the uplifting and economic betterment of the human race, therefore be it

Resolved, That we place this resolution in our minutes in memory of a dear comrade, and that a copy be sent to our party press for publication.

Section Pittsfield, Mass.

A VALUABLE DOCUMENT.

To comrades who keep a file of the documents issued by the Party we would announce that a few spare copies of the S. L. P. Report to the International Socialist Congress, Stuttgart, neatly printed and bound, may be had for 25 cents each.

**New York Labor News Co.,
28 City Hall Place.
New York.**

HOW THEY HOWL

Comments of the Capitalist Press on the Nomination of Preston.

A CLOISTERED SPIRIT.

The more one considers the Socialist Labor nomination for the Presidency, the more it gains upon the imagination, though it can not gain upon the judgment, of the average American; for Martin R. Preston, the nominee, is serving a term of twenty-five years within the walls of a penitentiary, and is thus beyond the perplexities which must need beset the other candidates. The Socialist Labor party had two reasons, both of them sufficient for putting Mr. Preston in the field: He is a convicted felon and is below the minimum age which the organic law of these United States prescribes for the Chief Magistrate. In other words, the convention's choice is equivalent to a declaration of war against the country and its ideals—is, in fact, a modern version of "Delenda est Karthago" and all like mottoes which have rung through the ages. But Mr. Preston's candidacy will appeal to people who care not at all for the Socialist Labor platform, and it may not be amiss to suggest a few of the arguments which may be used in his behalf.

In the first place, Mr. Preston is, from causes beyond his own control, a cloistered spirit. His outlook upon life is narrow, no doubt, but his perspective is not marred by the clamor and bitterness which are so often fatal to the politician at large. Mr. Preston will not have to sit upon the front porch and await the onset of delegations who come to talk platitudes, or to hear them. No Burchard can get at him—without the consent of the sheriff. No admirers can ship him a suit of clothes, made from the wool of a Texas goat which was bred to attest the beneficence of a protective tariff, for Mr. Preston's garb will cost the same under free trade as under protection. No grafter can "pull his leg," nor will it be necessary, as it has been with Mr. Sherman, to dilate upon the advantages of a clean shave—the State will see to that. Letters of acceptance will be penned in quiet and without thought of their effect upon the outer world. There will be no need to dodge the reporters, and partisans can always say of Preston what they can seldom truly say of their idols—"You always know where to find him." Nobody will inquire how he got the money to build so expensive a home; nobody will ask how he broke in, though many may ask when he will break out. The most irresponsible spellbinder will think twice or thrice before he asserts that Mr. Preston travels on passes or hobnobs with the magnates of Standard Oil.

Again, Mr. Preston will have no difficulty in keeping regular hours, no matter how hot the campaign may become. From the going down of the sun even unto the rising of the same, he will be free to meditate upon the problems of the time. His will be the privilege of silence and introspection, which is a mere memory for the mass of his countrymen He will have to answer no letters, asking for a catalogue of the books that helped him to attain his lonely eminence, nor will he have to indite twaddling epistles to the fond parents of his namesakes. In his case there will have to be no break-up of housekeeping on the 4th of March, nor will he have to discuss the advisability of inviting the Vice-President to "hang his hat in the hall." The captains of industry will give him the benefit of what Burke calls "A wise and salutary neglect;" the walking delegate will give him as wide a berth as he can. All these boons are purely personal to Mr. Preston, but the nation may profit, too. "The Pilgrim's Progress" was written in jail, and America's Bunyan may blossom forth behind the bars. Certain, we are entitled to a great book, as solace for the ineffable "rot" which a presidential election condemns us to endure.—New Orleans Times Democrat, July 21.

Martin R. Preston, candidate of the Socialist-Labor party for President, has declined to accept the nomination. He is reported to have declared that the S. L. P. is attempting to make capital out of his imprisonment and that he did not receive the financial assistance that he should have had during his trial. Preston shot a swindling restaurant keeper at Goldfield in self defence.—"Cleveland Citizen," July 18.

[The Civic Federationized "Cleveland Citizen" is astute enough not to mention where it is "reported" that Preston "declared that the S. L. P. is attempting to make capital out of his imprisonment." The "Cleveland Citizen's" astuteness is peculiar to slanderers. They never specify. Believing in letting "swine rend swine," The People will here quote another pro-Civic Federation paper, the out-and-out capitalist "Los Angeles Record," which reports in its issue of July 18 the following interview with Preston:

"I am not at liberty to say much. My attorneys have instructed me to refuse to be interviewed. But in view of my nomination for president by the socialist-labor party I think it imperative that I should make a statement.

"While I appreciate the honor conferred upon me, I am not altogether surprised. I have been recognized by the party on previous occasions and have always felt that some day they would honor me to a greater extent than they have in the past. But do not misunderstand me. I had no intimation that they would so far remember my efforts as to place me before the people of this great country as a presidential nominee.

"I have always preached the doctrines of my party and have always been willing to take the stand on their behalf. I have always been a socialist and I always will be.

"Of course, I have declined the nomination and I hope that the party will see fit to take my name from the ticket. My heart is full of thanks to those who have proved themselves to be loyal to our cause and my only regret is that I am not in a position to accept the honor that has been bestowed upon me."

"What is your opinion of the future of your party?" Preston was asked.

"I am thoroughly convinced," he replied, "that within a few years the entire country will fall in line with our beliefs and will support our candidates at the polls. We are the great party of this country and the people will soon realize this fact."]

THE S. L. P. NOMINATION.

"I see that a certain Socialist Labor party has nominated a convict for president. What is this party, and cannot a union be effected between it and the Socialist party?"—Bakersfield, Calif.

The Socialist Labor party was the original Socialist party, but on account of its tactics it never seemed able to get much of a following. Then the Socialist party was founded, with practically the same principles, but differing in tactics, and this soon far outstripped the other. The Socialist Labor party will not unite with the Socialist party as a body, though its membership is gradually dwindling as individuals desert it for the stronger organization. The last national convention had only twenty-three delegates in attendance, representing a minority of the states. The man nominated for president is named Preston and is now serving a sentence for murder in the Nevada penitentiary. The deed was committed during labor troubles and only after great injustice had been suffered by Mr. Preston and others. Preston would have been freed as doing the deed in defense of womanhood except for a bitter class war that prevailed.—"Appeal to Reason." July 25.

S. L. P. CONVENTION.

Twenty-three noble delegates from the 46 states of the union met in national convention of the S. L. P. in New York last week. These brave and heroic "impossibilists" named ten splendid committees to do the work of the convention, requiring 32 men. A prize will be given to the reader who will correctly name the mysterious "other nine." All the delegates were seated—it must have crowded the hall to suffocation. The Weekly People says a great demonstration followed the nominating speech by "Danny" De Leon, the mightiest Czar of them all. It took four mortal days for this skiddoo number of delegates to transact their business. The convention demanded the unconditional surrender of the capitalist class, and the towers of corporate wealth in Wall street trembled to their very base. For President they nominated Martin R. Preston, a miner, now in jail in Nevada under sentence of 25 years for murder. One splendid result of having their nominee in jail makes sure they will know where to find him and assures the dear public of not being burdened with any of of his "impossibilist" harangues. Daniel L. Munroe, machinist, of Portsmouth, Va., was named for vice-president. Their sessions were so crowded with rag chewing on those blessed four days that the convention had no time to write a new platform, so they readopted the hodge-podge of 1904, which serves as well as any other old thing with which to ride to defeat. Great is De Leon and greatly to be praised are his noble 23—"without ancestry or hope of progeny."—From an alleged Journal of the Working Class. The Dallas, Tex., "Laborer," July 8.

HOMAGE TO MURDER.

It sounds strange that a convicted murderer should be nominated for the Presidency by any party of U. S. citizens. But this was done by the socialist party at their national convention in New York. The nominee, Preston, is serving a term of twenty-five years in a Nevada prison for killing an "enemy of the people," in the person of one who had become objectionable to the cause of socialism.

The prisoner, being under thirty-five years of age, is therefore ineligible for the great office. But in the minds of the socialist leaders this does not matter. De Leon, their greatest chief, said in his speech glorifying the hero of Nevada, "if the people elect him, he will be seated; constitutions are for the people, not the people for the constitutions."

In other words, his followers would wade through fire and blood to instal their man in the White House.

The nomination of the murderer Preston by this American political order for the highest office is useful as an exhibition of their principles, and the lengths to which their policy would carry them. —Free Press, London, Can., July 11.

It is to be hoped that we shall see no domestic discord in the ranks of the Socialist party. Here at least there should be that ecstatic harmony that will be a foretaste of a Socialist future for civilization. But so far the evidences of harmony are not encouraging. Already there are two candidates in the field, and they are both equipped with the necessary credentials in the shape of a prison record. But Mr. Debs incurred the penalty of jail for the unimportant offense of contempt of court, whereas Mr. De Leon, who looks down upon Mr. Debs as an aristocrat, has actually killed his man during a recent strike. It is true that Mr. De Leon is under the constitutional age and that his present term of imprisonment is for twenty-five years, but these are matters of small importance compared with the assertion of a great principle. The favor of the Socialists naturally goes toward Mr. De Leon, and Mr. Debs's humble claims can hardly be said to be in serious competition with those of a real man-killer in the cause of human brotherhood.—San Francisco Argonaut, July 22.

The Evansville "Courier," of July 14, has a cartoon headed "One of Our Candidates for President." In the picture is shown a "convict" in a striped suit, a ball and chain about his ankle. He is bending over with a sledge hammer in his hand breaking stones. Into his mouth are put the words, "If I am elected I will pardon myself." At the bottom of the cartoon is the inscription: "The gentleman nominated by the Socialist Labor Party is serving a twenty-five-year sentence in Nevada.'

Watch the label on your paper. It will tell you when your subscription expires. First number indicates the month, second, the day, third, the year.

LETTER-BOX

OFF-HAND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NO QUESTIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED THAT COME IN ANONYMOUS LETTERS. ALL LETTERS MUST CARRY A BONA FIDE SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS.

S. H., GOLDFIELD, NEV.—"Preston knew he was taking chances when he picketed Silva's place"?—You bet he did. So does every soldier who goes on the post of danger. So far from that being against, it is in his favor. He knew it was danger and not plum-pudding he was up against.

Next question next week.

A. G., TACOMA, WASH.—The clause forbidding Party members from filling office in pure and simple Unions made its appearance in the S. L. P. constitution immediately upon, and as a consequence of the Party's endorsing a concrete economic organization—at that season the S. T. and S. L. So long as the Party continued to endorse any concrete economic organization that clause had sense. The late convention of the S. L. P. repealed the endorsement of any concrete economic organization. The instant the Party endorses no concrete economic organization, the clause concerning offices in pure and simple Unions becomes unmeaning; as such it was repealed.

J. S. E., DESMOINES, IA.—A vote for Debs is not a vote for Preston, or what Preston represents. Apart from the action of the S. P. convention, the S. P. press—some directly, others indirectly by their silence—endorse the hostile attitude of the capitalist press towards Preston.

H. J., BOISE, IDA.—Money is the "fluid of commerce", true enough. But that fluid of life becomes the fluid of death by the law of its own birth and existence. Money implies private ownership of the means of production. Now, then, private ownership of the means of production is a navel string that is bound to strangle its own creature. And that is done with the aid of "money", the fluid. The Republic of Labor needs not money. Exchange is carried on by means of vouchers for labor performed.

O. M. H., KANSAS CITY, MO.—Matter was received and receipt acknowledged. Will be duly used in due time.

J. W., ;EVERETT, MASS.—There are no prophets or sons of prophets in this office. To draw a safe conclusion as to whether Taft or Bryan will win requires a knowledge of more facts than any one man is in possession of. The facts accessible point to an intense campaign. What the issue will be we know not.

M. S., PROVIDENCE, R. I.—Haywood had been made much of by the Socialist party. The New York organization fetched him over and used him to boom itself. The "New Yorker Volkszeitung" editorialized upon him at the time as "the logical candidate for President." Thus he was made all the capital of that was possible. When the national convention met, Haywood was sat down upon, good and hard. He was too radical for the "decent" S. P. Some one else was nominated.

R. S. C., CRUSHER, OKLA.—The Mexican should take "Robertson's Method to Learn English." The American might take "Ollendorff's" book to learn Spanish.

F. J. B., REVERE, MASS.—Your late correspondence has all been forwarded to the N. E. C.-man of your State for submission to your Section. It is for the Section, not for this office, to handle such matter.

V. P. B., PORTLAND, ORE.—The Section that would need a constitutional clause to guard it against admitting an applicant fakir who is skinning workingmen of high initiation fees—such a Section is too spineless to live.

F. McD., SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.—The desired article shall be written. In the meantime read carefully De Leon's Minneapolis address and "The Preamble of the I. W. W.. There the subject of the composition of the Socialist Republic is handled quite extensively.

H. N., LANSING, MICH.—The first thing to do is to know the facts. Without that no denunciation is effective. The "Letters of Junius" are good reading in the matter.

G. F., EAST PORT, IDA.—Forward the articles.

B. R. J., ST .LOUIS, MO.—Every reform that capitalism grants is a concealed measure of reaction. The "Australian Ballot Law" is an instance in point. It was heralded as "a means to promote the purity of the ballot box." It is found out to be a means whereby to keep out the birth of minority parties. In many States the law is so framed as to be virtually prohibitive for new parties to arise. Place no confidence in "reforms."

M. J. I., NEW YORK—The statement: "All we owe a tramp is a funeral" was made by the Rev. Dr. Theodore Kugle of Hoboken, N. J.

T. K., DANBURY, CONN.—The central principle is that supply and demand determine prices. But there are other things that come into play also. For instance: the perishableness of a commodity: that compels quick sales and tends to lower its price. Another circumstance is the neediness of the seller. For instance: girls with good hair sell that ornament to hair dealers; here need drives: and it has been noticed that the high price of bread lowers the price of hair.

"BOLSHEVIK," NEW YORK—Join the S. L. P. organization of your Assembly District. Also call at this office and see Editor of "Der Arbeiter."

W. E. S., BOSTON, MASS.—The book has been received and note will be taken.

E. B., COLUMBUS, O.; C. W. P., MANOR PARK, ESSEX, ENG.; A. G. D., BEARDSTOWN, ILL.; E. E., BATON ROUGE, LA.; A. G. D., LOUISVILLE, IND.; A. T. N., BROOKLYN, N. Y.; J. R., PLAINFIELD, N. J.; W. G. A., HAPWOOD, HAYWOOD, ENG.; D. S., ENSLEY, ALA.; M. S., NEW YORK, N. Y.; M. R., HOLYOKE, MASS.; T. R., DEVORE, CAL.—Matter received.

OFFICIAL

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
Paul Augustine, National Secretary.
28 City Hall Place.
CANADIAN S. L. P.
National Secretary, Philip Courtenay,
144 Duchess Ave., London, Ont.
NEW YORK LABOR NEWS CO.
(The Party's literary agency.)
28 City Hall Place, N. Y. City.

Notice—For technical reasons no party announcements can go in that are not in this office by Tuesday, 10 p. m.

N. E. C. SUB-COMMITTEE.

Regular meeting of the N. E. C. Sub-Committee was held on Wednesday, July 29th, at Daily People Building. Members present — Malmberg, Brauckmann, Hammer, Rosenberg, Hanlon, Hall, Kihn, Lafferty, Lechner, Ball, Oatley, Schraft and Butterworth. Absent — Wegener, Schwartz.

Butterworth chairman.

Minutes of previous meeting adopted as read.

A card was received from Wegener asking to be excused for absence at last meeting. Excused.

The Secretary's financial report for four weeks, ending July 15, showed: Income, $511.18; Expenses, $312.20; on hand, $198.98.

Auditing committee reported progress.

Correspondence:—From L. C. Haller, H. J. Schade and Martin R. Preston, regarding Preston's nomination for President. The following resolution was moved by Rosenberg, seconded by Malmberg:

"Whereas, Comrade M. R. Preston, the nominee of the S. L. P. convention for President, feels by delicacy prevented from personally appearing upon the ballot, due to the distressful condition in which an outrageous exhibition of class despotism keeps him plunged; and

"Whereas, The convention empowered the N. E. C. to fill any vacancy that may occur on the Presidential ticket; and

"Whereas, The N. E. C. has empowered its Sub-Committee to act on this, as on all other matters of an emergency nature; therefore be it

"Resolved, That the Sub-Committee of the N. E. C. of the S. L. P. do and now does nominate and appoint Comrade August Gillhaus of Section New York, and now on a tour of propaganda in the West, as the proxy for Comrade Preston on this year's presidential ticket."

The above resolutions were adopted unanimously. The name of the comrade who was to be appointed as Preston's proxy being left in blank, nominations were made to fill the place.

August Gillhaus was nominated by Rosenberg, seconded by Brauckman; John Hossack was nominated by Hanlon, seconded by Oatley. The vote resulted: Gilhaus, 9; Hossack, 4. Gillhaus was then made the unanimous appointee of the Party as Preston's proxy on the Presidential ticket.

From A. S. Dowler, Tex. N. E. C. member, sending motion to publish proceedings of National Convention. Referred to N. E. C.

From Manager of Daily People, relative to affairs of Daily People and regarding inactivity of membership in securing subs.

The N. E. C. Sub-Committee urges the membership of the Party from now on to actively take up the work of agitation and propaganda. The issue is clear. It is the class struggle of the Workers against Capitalism, and Preston's fate symbolizes class injustice on the part of capitalist organized authority against the working class. But in this campaign this onslaught of the war on the capitalist citadel, as in other wars, an essential thing is the sinews of war.

Agitate, spread the education, but at the same time and while doing this, do not forget to furnish financial support of the Party's institutions and the Press, our main batteries. Send on subscriptions; send on your contributions.

From Pa. S. E. C., sending minutes of session of July 12, and stating that S. E. C. has elected W. H Thomas to fill vacancy created by resignation of McConnell as N. E. C. member.

The Secretary reported having written to Pa. S. E. C. regarding unconstitutional procedure in electing N. E. C. member. Action of Secretary endorsed.

From Cincinnati, O., regarding election of officers. Filed.

From S. P. member, Lawrence, Kansas, requesting information. Answered and filed.

The Secretary reported having seen Jos. Campbell and arranged to have indebtedness contracted by Campbell at Knoxville, Tenn., settled in near future. Action of Secretary endorsed.

From Sweeney, Sec'y. Mass S. E. C., giving information regarding state convention, reported having endorsed actions of national convention, and general matters. Filed.

From Daisy Halling, Manchester, Eng., requesting information. Answered and filed.

From Geo. Anderson, Denver, Colo., sending copy of circular letter sent out to Sections in state relative to putting ticket in the field; giving information relative to affairs in state, and reporting for the amusement of the Sub-Committee that an S. P. delegate to the S. P. national convention in Chicago came back whispering the "rumor" that there was a mortgage of $40,000 on the Daily People, and explaining that, had unity with the S. L. P. been decided upon at the convention, the S. P. would have had to assume the indebtedness. Filed.

From H. Spittal, Erie, Pa., giving information regarding actions of S. P. in Erie, requesting information and inquiring whether a speaker can be sent to Erie. Answered and filed.

From Janke, Indianapolis, Ind., requesting information. Answered and filed.

From Conn. S. E. C., inquiring regarding availability of securing a speaker. Answered and filed.

From Gillhaus, Tacoma, Wash., giving information regarding affairs in state of Washington; giving information and sending expense account. Answered and filed.

The meeting then adjourned at 11 p. m.

Max Rosenberg, Secretary.

VIRGINIA S. E. C.

The S. E. C. of the S. L. P. of Virginia met in regular session at Newport News, Va., July 26, with C. Rudolph in the chair. G. Kinder was elected recording secretary pro tem., Bader being absent with no excuse. The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as read.

Communications from the National Secretary; from Section Richmond; from Section Portsmouth; from Section Roanoke, regarding party affairs; received and filed.

Motion made that the State Secretary be instructed to communicate with all sections to send in a list of eligible members for election in the national campaign.

The monthly and financial report was then read and adopted.

G. Kinder, Secretary pro tem.

TO THE SECTIONS AND MEMBERS-AT-LARGE OF THE S. L. P. IN COLORADO.

Comrades:

Section Denver, having been duly notified of its selection as the seat of the S. E. C., proceeded to nominate ten comrades as candidates for members of the S. E. C. for the ensuing two years, whose names are being submitted for election, together with the votes cast for each, by the section, in accordance with our State by-laws.

Five members are to be elected, hence each member of the Party can vote for five only. Sections must state the number of votes cast for each candidate.

As it has been decided not to hold a State convention; and as the business of said convention is to be transacted through the referendum, you are hereby called upon to make nominations for a State Secretary for the ensuing term. The State Secretary must, of course, be located at the seat of the S. E. C. and in this case a member of Section Denver.

The S. E. C., realizing the urgent necessity of the S. L. P.'s appearing on the ballot at the coming election, and having been requested by the national office to use every effort to that end, and in view of the fact that the time is short, does hereby call upon the three sections in the State — Denver, Mesa County and El Paso County—each to nominate and select two members, and ascertain that they will accept the nomination; these six members so nominated will be the S. L. P. candidates for Presidential electers, and with your assistance we shall make an effort to have their names placed on the official ballot for the Presidential election.

All together for Preston and Munro!

For the S. E. C.,
Geo. Anderson, State Sec'y,
Box 73, Montclair, Colo.

"The Socialist"

Official Organ of the Socialist Labor Party of Great Britain.

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OPERATING FUND.

We would gladly cease putting these appeals in our party press, but unless the comrades send in many more subscriptions to The People, we dare not let up in our calls. There must be a continued effort made all along the line to send in readers. This can not be done better at any time than now. The campaign is the thing uppermost in a workingman's mind. See to it that he gets our press.

The past week has been a very poor one in point of subscriptions and in donations. We must urge you to do one thing or the other. Get readers, or get money. Let us see a more general activity.

The contributions this week have been:

J. W. Stewart, Tucson, Ariz.	$3.00
O. J. Hughes, Brooklyn, N. Y.	2.00
J. Mann, Chicago, Ill.	.65
O. Freer, Columbus, O.	.60
H. Spittal, Erie, Pa.,	.50
W. J. Burns, San Francisco	10.00
Total	$ 16.75
Previously acknowledged	2,870.44
Grand Total	$2,887.19

TEXAS STATE CONVENTION.

The State Convention of the S. L. P. will be held in San Antonio, on TUESDAY, August 11th.

Robert Strach has been elected State Secretary and Organizer. Otto Schnett was elected Recording Secretary of the Texas S. E. C.

MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION.

The Socialist Labor Party of Missouri will hold its State convention on SATURDAY, August 8th, at 8p. m., at 1606 So. 7th street, St. Louis, Mo.

Theo. Kaucher, Secretary.

ST. LOUIS PICNIC.

Section St. Louis, Socialist Labor Party, has arranged for a picnic and outing at Wolz's Grove, on SUNDAY, August 23, beginning at 9 a. m. Good music and singing will be had, refreshments of all kinds will be provided. Games and an all around good time is guaranteed. Admission 10 cents.

Take Cherokee through cars, change to Lakewood car, which will take you to the grove.

The Committee.

CINCINNATIANS, ATTENTION!

On SUNDAY, August 16, Section Cincinnati, S. L. P., will give its second picnic of the year at Lohman's Park, Oakley. Admittance to the grounds will be free, and we hope to see all our friends with their families, "if fortunate enough to have any," at the picnic. Of course, those of our friends without families should also come along.

A splendid band has been engaged so that all those inclined to dance will have the opportunity of satisfying their inclination.

Enough of that product, which it is claimed "made Milwaukee famous," will be on hand to satisfy the thirst of 5,000 people, even though they were of the girth of the Republican candidate for President.

As all the money made at this picnic will be used for the purpose of spreading our ideas among the working class, we hope that all those in sympathy with our movement will assist us all they can to make this picnic a success.

Picnic Committee.

GILLHAUS TOUR EASTWARD.

Butte Mont.—August 21—22.
Fargo, N. D.—August 24.
Duluth, Minn.—August 25.
St. Paul, Minn.—August 26.
Minneapolis, Minn.—August 27—28.
Winona, Minn.—August 29.
Milwaukee, Wis. — August 31—September 1.
Sheboygan, Wis.—September 2.
Chicago, Ill.—September 3, 4 and 5.
Lansing, Mich.—September 7.
Detroit, Mich.—September 8.
Cleveland, Ohio.—September 10.
Indianapolis, Ind.—September 17.
Pittsburg, Pa.—October 1.

Paul Augustine, Nat'l Secretary.

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WHERE ARE WE AT?

TENDENCY TO DEPEND UPON THE FEW TO DO THE WORK OF ALL

Ninety-three subs to the Weekly and 27 to the Daily People is the record of this week. On the face of it, it looks no worse than the results of the poor showing the comrades have been making these past few weeks. But when we consider that 22 of these subs were sent in by one man alone, our old whirlwind canvasser Chas. Pierson, we lack words to express our disappointment. Were it not for the, comparatively speaking, handful of hustlers who send in their quota of subs week by week, as regularly as clockwork, the safety of The People would be at stake. As it is, we are just crawling along.

These sending in two or more were:

Chas. Pierson, Peoria, Ill.	22
O. W. Neebe, Chicago, Ill.	2
H. E. Long, San Francisco, Cal.	5
L. C. Haller, Los Angeles, Cal.	2
C. Carlson, New Britain, Conn.	2
J. Grabuski, Lansing, Mich.	2
F. Oksanen, Brooklyn, N. Y.	3
Geo. W. Ohls, Pittsburg, Pa.	3
A. Gillhaus, Seattle, Wash.	3
D. L. Barnett, Spokane, Wash.	3
L. Olsson, Tacoma, Wash.	3
J. Burkhardt, Indianapolis, Ind.	4

Prepaid cards:—C. A. Ruby, Rochester, N. Y., $4.00; C. H. Thorne, London Jct., Canada, $5.00; James McCall, Yellowstone Park, Wyo., $5.00; J. H. Nosovitch, Mt. Vernon, Wash., $6.50.

Weekly People bundle increase, 102 copies.

Toward the latter part of the week Literature orders have picked up somewhat. They consist mostly, however, of cloth bound books, thinly interspersed with orders for propaganda literature. Get on the firing line and spread the Party's literature.

New Castle, Pa.	$1.20
Port Angeles, Wash.	6.55
Mt. Vernon, Wash.	1.25
Milwaukee, Wis.	2.00
New York	3.00
Providence, R. I.	4.00
St. Paul, Minn.	5.90
Amenia, N. D.	1.25
Chicago, Ill.	15.60
Baltimore, Md.	1.31
Yellowstone Park, Wyo.	5.50

SWISS GOVERNMENT.

Breaks All Precedent by Deciding to Extradite Russian Political Prisoner.

Brussels, Belgium, July 18. — Up to the present, all civilized states have made it a practice never to extradite persons accused or convicted of political crimes. In recent years, for instance, France refused to deliver up Hartmann, who took part in the attempt on Alexander II.; Italy refused to extradite Michael Gotz, accused of membership in the fighting organization of the Socialist Revolutionary Party, which killed Sipiaguin and Plehve; Sweden refused to give up Tcherniak, who was accused of having participated in the attack on Stolypin.

Breaking with all these precedents, the Swiss government has just consented to the extradition of Wassilieff, who, as a member of the Socialist Revolutionary Party, killed Kandaouroff, the prefect of police of Pensa, in January, 1906.

Kandaouroff had organized, in opposition to peaceful and legal manifestations, massacres of women and children. He likewise organized pogroms against the students, and instituted tortures of the political prisoners in the fortresses.

Under these conditions, there is no doubt but that Wassilieff's act, like those of Hartmann and Tcherniak, was purely a political one.

That, in fact, is the formal declaration of lawyers not to be accused of Socialist sympathies, such as Fernand Thiry, professor of criminal law at the University of Liege, and Nys, professor of criminal law at the University of Brussels, and barrister in the Court of Appeals.

"In the case which occupies us," writes Prof. Nys, "all the circumstances, all the elements of the case, lead to the conclusion that the act attributed to Victor Wassilieff is of a political character.

"The time, the scene, the official position of the victim, all show that no sentiment of personal hatred inspired the act. Russia, and especially the government of Pensa, was in a state of rebellion. The victim held an office which made him the principal agent of the government in the matter of repression. The alleged author of the criminal deed acted solely in the interest of his political party; he sought to strike at the Russian Government."

This being the case, one might have supposed that the Swiss government would refuse to hand over Wassilieff to the Czar's executioners or torturers. That hope has just been deceived. Tied five to five, by the deciding vote of its president, the Federal Tribunal has pronounced for extradition—that is to say, for death, either by shooting or by bad treatment. In a few days Wassilieff will be turned over into the hands of the Russian gendarmes, unless individual and collective intervention saves him.

Executive Committee, International Socialist Bureau,
Camille Huysmans, Secretary.

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THE MEXICAN CASE.

(Continued from page 1.)

many suppose, and but for the miscarriage of one important cargo, Mexico would have been enveloped in the throes of decisive battle. Fighting is going on in the smaller towns and hamlets in northern Mexico. Latest advices from the interior are favorable to an early and speedy solution. The report says that the "Insurrectionists" outnumber the loyal forces.

An old soldier sends a letter in which he says: "There will be success for the revolutionists if the American working class will keep their troops at home, and leave us starving Peons and Indians to settle with our tyrant. In America you have the right to educate with words; in Mexico we are taught to educate with bullets. That is the way the tyrant educates. He has taught us to do so: now we will educate him."

In another letter received from a young Mexican we read: "We are on the eve of a win or lose game. To win means life, liberty and happiness. What inspiration that gives us! To lose means death. Aye, worse than death. I will not tolerate the thought of losing. We cannot lose if left to ourselves. You know what I mean. As I am writing you this I can hear the roar of the cannon and see the flash of fire. The times are ripe. The soldiers are joining forces with us. I can see the end now, and the day is ours. Only keep those patriotic blue coats over on your side of the Rio Grande, and we Indians will put the finishing touch on the Tyrant of Mexico, and win the name of men."

G. B.

STOCK UP YOUR BOOK SHELF.

Herewith are given the titles of a few works that are classics and great value for the money. A dollar spent upon a good book is never wasted. "Man does not live by bread alone:

MAN IN THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. By Prof. Ludwig Buchner. It describes Man as "a being not put upon the earth accidentally by an arbitrary act, but produced in harmony with the earth's nature, and belonging to it as do the flowers and fruits to the tree which bears them." ....Cloth, $1.00

MARTYRDOM OF MAN (THE.) By Winwood Reade. This book is a very interestingly pictured synopsis of universal history, showing what the race has undergone—its martyrdom—in its rise to the present plane. It shows how war and religion have been oppressive factors in the struggle for liberty, and the last chapter, of some 500 pages, describes his intellectual struggle from the animal period of the earth to the present, adding an outline of what the author conceives would be a religion of reason and love. ....Cloth $1.00

FORCE AND MATTER: or, Principles of the Natural Order of the Universe. By Prof. Ludwig Buchner, M. D. A scientific and rationalistic work of great merit and ability. One cloth volume $1.00

EVOLUTION OF MAN. By Ernst Haeckel. This book has pleased buyers immensely. When you learn that the illustrations alone number 408 you will get some idea of the book. Cloth $1.00, by mail 20c. extra.

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS CO.
28 CITY HALL PLACE, NEW YORK.

CHILDREN'S HOUR

Dear Little Comrades:—

To-day we have a composition by Comrade Katherine which, if I didn't know our little comrade, would make me think it came from a grown-up. it is so deep. But although Socialist children are deep thinkers and understand these matters of industrial unions, co-operative commonwealths, exploitation, etc., yet remember we must make it plain for our little brothers and sisters by using as simple language as possible. We also must have definitions of these big words, terms we call them. Who will write out a short definition of EXPLOITATION? Define it from the dictionary and illustrate by explaining its use by the Socialists.

Now, Comrades Estelle, Geraldine, Sylvia, Agnes, Ruth, May, Louis, Leo, who have written long ago, and many others who have not yet written at all, get busy. Do get busy!

Can't you see how a composition like Katherine's must make the teacher think? She is not to blame very much that she does not know Socialism. She was never taught it. No one ever made her think of it and how is she to know! But after a term with a pupil like Comrade Katherine she will begin to think about it. Then, when the teachers become Socialists, why, they will teach it to the children.

When the children are old enough to take part in the world they will know all about Socialism, and not allowed themselves to be fooled by old parties and old ideas.

So can't you see what valuable help the hands of the workers, so there wil! you children can be to the Socialist Movement if you thoroughly understand our ideas? Why, my dears, the hope of the world rests on you. Don't neglect your chances. Study, read and write. Ask questions and answer them whenever you can, in the columns of the "Children's Hour."

"And a little child shall lead them."

Lovingly,
AUNT ANNETTA.

HOW TO RID THE WORLD OF POVERTY.

Once I was talking to a number of girl friends of mine, when the subject of poverty came up. Some of these girls were very aristocratic and conservative. They were never poor, and thought that the poor were a necessary evil, degenerate, intemperate, and received the just punishment for their vices. I listened to all this until they asked me my opinion, and I determined to tell a few things to make them think.

We all agreed that poverty was a lack of the means of living. But most of them were utterly ignorant of the cause, the effect, or anything about the subject. I told them that the reason is, that a few idle people own and control the machinery or the means of production, while a large mass of people do the work and get a small recompense for their labor. The one class reap the benefits of the work and the other class get just enough to keep them alive while they are doing the work. We find children going out to work at a tender age when they should be at school or at play. They receive less wages in proportion to the work they do than the grown-up people. So the exploiters prefer to employ children, because they are cheaper, thus compelling the men to work for whatever they can get. So the system lowers wages and encourages child-labor. These conditions cause all the evil of our present-day system of government.

But it is possible to rid the world of this system of class exploitation. The workers must be organized according to the industries. All railroad workers must be organized into one union, all workers carrying on means of communication into another union, and so on until every industry is well organized into one large industrial union. This method of organization is very different from the method which is now and has been used, that of organizing according to crafts or trades. One part of an industry may go on strike for better wages or shorter hours and another part stays at work and so does what is called "scabbing" on their fellow workers. This benefits the exploiting class. Therefore it is necessary for the workers to be organized into industrial unions so that they can work for their own interests in a communistic way, as their enemies and exploiters do. Then the workers will take the machinery, which they run, into their own hands. They will then reap the benefits of their own work. With the idle rich it will be a question of work or starve. Wealth will be in plenty for all. Then we will have the Co-operative Commonwealth. Fathers can then support their families without taking children into the factories, etc.

The girls to whom I had been talking, after careful study, deep thought, and many questions, became interested in Socialism.

Katherine Flynn.
511 E. 134th St., New York,
July 16, 1908.

[Dear Katherine—This little composition is excellent. Send along as many as you can.—AUNT ANNETTA.]

BY FORCE?

In Comrade Katherine's composition, "How to Rid the World of Poverty," she says: "The workers must take the machinery into their own hands and take the product of their labor for themselves," etc. Her teacher marked in blue pencil at the margin of this sentence, "How? By force?"

Well, teacher dear, suppose the workers *do* use force to get back what belongs to them, does that need frighten you? Suppose one of your boys took your pocketbook from your desk, dear teacher, and you knew he had it but would not return it, wouldn't you hold him there, the principal and all the teachers helping you, until he would return it? I've seen just such a case. Yes, and the teacher allowed the policeman to take the boy to the police station where he was kept until he returned the money, and from there sent to a reformatory, where he is yet. Wasn't that force?

But, teacher dear, let's go back to glorious history, and how did God free the Israelites from Pharaoh? The story goes that he sent ten plagues upon Pharaoh and his people, and then drowned them in the Red Sea when they pursued the Israelites. Wasn't that force? Then the Israelites in turn, what did they do to get possession of the Land of Canaan promised them by God—did they not war upon the natives, Philistines, and take possession of what they imagined belonged to them? And was not that Force?

Now, dear teacher, we'll skip the many history stories of the old world where *force* was used in getting things back from the robber or ruling classes.

I know you love United States history, the glorious land of the free and home of the brave.

Have you forgotten Cortez, De Soto and a few other heroes who helped *take this land* from the Indians? I think they didn't do it in the most gentle or polite way either,—do you?

Do you remember the rattlesnake skin that Captain Miles Standish filled with powder and bullets and returned it to the Indians who had objected to the Puritans taking possession of what they thought belonged to them? Gentle teacher, was not that a pretty good example of *force?*

Now, those are all examples of what we Socialists call *physical force*, and our story growing long we'll leave part of our answer for next week.

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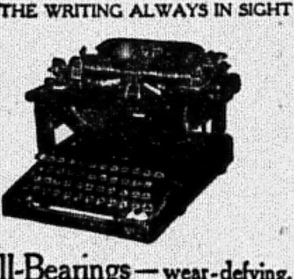

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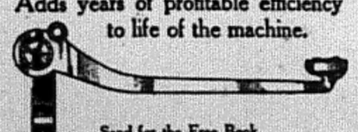

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